Z BROADWAY

WORLD SOCCER

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AUSTRALIA v IRAN WORLD CUP MATCH

World SOCCER

Miljan Miljanic quits Real Madrid—but why?
Miljanic talks to WORLD SOCCER...pages 26/27

IT IS SIX games since England won a match. And if they can't break that sad sequence on October 10 in the World Cup qualifier in Luxembourg matters will be in an even sorrier state than we imagined.

England struggle yet again

The 0-0 Wembley draw against Switzerland was variously described as a "night of shame" and "England's worst yet." Perhaps too many people expected too many miracles just because Ron Greenwood had stepped in where Don Revie feared to tread, and because six men from Liverpool had been called in.

Greenwood's statement after it was all over that "I am disappointed and so are the players," was natural. But I find it hard to believe that even England's caretaker manager expected his team to find a match such hard going against the part-time Swiss.

With the soured atmosphere at the end of the match, with Rene Botteron accusing Ray Kennedy of deliberately elbowing him in the face, it was hard to escape the feeling that England are still going nowhere, and in the wrong state of mind.

But it is wrong to criticise Greenwood on the strength of one match. Going for the Liverpool cohesion was a good idea, and worth continuing with — even if Callaghan, Kennedy and Co did look as if they were sadly missing Steve Heighway and Kenny Dalglish up front!

Heighway, of course, is an Irish international and Dalglish a Scot. Both can display the kind of incision England badly missed.

Kevin Keegan tried hard, though the eye of the attack is hardly his ideal position. In the main Swiss skipper Lucio Bizzini kept the right side of the Hamburg man and his sallies and surprises came to nothing. Trevor Francis tried hard — but he's not the target man England's defenders were searching for with those long lobs, and not unexpectedly still lacks the confidence with England that the shows in League matches.

As for Mike Channon, sold to Manchester City before the start of the season for £300,000, he was lucky to make the team. Greenwood left him out of the original squad, but after Channon scored twice and made two goals in a league match four days before Wembley, Greenwood had little option but to recall him when injuries ate away at the original party.

Alas, Channon's 45 minutes were disastrous. He seemed unable to control the ball or reach any understanding with the rest of the team. Little wonder that Gordon Hill, the Manchester United left winger, came on after half-time. Hill beat Sergio Trinchero a number of times, but repeated his past Wembley errors of failing to move the ball on quickly enough or accurately enough once the gap had been created.

Throughout the match the Swiss showed the more imagination and the greater technical skills. Former England centre-forward Martin Chivers had said before the game that England would win 4-0, and Chivers, after all, knows the strengths and weaknesses of the Swiss league through his year-and-a-bit with Servette.

But he had also warned that England should not underestimate the Swiss — and without any doubt the visitors were the more entertaining side. Until that is, the Wembley pace began to sap their stamina midway through the second half, and manager Roger Vonlanthen destroyed their hard-working cohesion with four substitutions.

The Swiss came to Wembley with their World Cup hopes dead, without the retired Kuhn and Odermatt and the injured Hans-Jorg Pfister. They were there to be beaten . . . or so it seemed.

Instead they provided the sharper of the early attacks. Rene Hasler, playing far out on the right in midfield, was just wide in one mid, and after another — cleverly schemed by Umberto Barberis and Rudi Elsener — centre-forward Josef Küttel was an inch or two away from tucking the cross past Ray Clemence.

For England Trevor Francis headed over and Channon forced a good save from Erich

England 0, Switzerland 0
Crowd: 42,000. Ref: Georges Konrath (France).

England: Clemence (Liverpool) — Neal (Liverpool), Watson (Man. City), Hughes (Liverpool, captain), Cherry (Leeds) — McDermott, Callaghan (sub Wilkins, Chelsea 61), Kennedy (all Liverpool) — Channon (Man. City) (sub Hill, Man. Utd. half-time), Keegan (Hamburg), Francis (Birmingham).

Switzerland: Burgener (Lausanne) — Trinchero (Servette), Bizzini (Servette, captain), Chapuisat, Heinrich (both Zurich) — Hasler (Neuchatel-Xamax) (sub Erschbühl, Young Boys 78), Barberis (Servette), Botteron (Zurich), Demarmels (Basle) (sub von Wartburg, Basle half-time) — Elsener (Grasshoppers) (sub Risser, Etoile Carouge 85), Küttel (Young Boys) (sub Suter, Grasshoppers 57).

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The Liverpool players in the England team which drew 0-0 with Switzerland — left to right: Ian Callaghan, Terry McDermott, Ray Clemence, Phil Neal, Ray Kennedy and Emlyn Hughes.

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FRONT COVER CAPTION
Kevin Keegan pictured by Peter Robinson playing for Hamburg SV, his new club, in West Germany.

Peter Bills talks to Sir Stanley Rous

GROWING fears for the 1978 World Cup Finals in Argentina have been firmly crushed by the world's leading statesman in professional football.

Sir Stanley Rous, 82-year-old former president of the world's ruling body — FIFA — has come out strongly in favour of the decision to stick to Argentina as next summer's venue for the finals.

Rous is the man who first assessed facilities in Argentina when the South American country first applied to stage the '78 finals — 16 years ago. Rous flew out to South America and it was his favourable report which helped clinch the finals for Argentina.

Now, despite the growing uncertainty of political stability and the threat of guerilla activity, Rous re-affirms his faith in a successful tournament in the Argentina. Rous sat back in the quiet elegance of his West London home one sunny afternoon in late summer and told me why he stands by his controversial decision.

Maybe it's easy to dismiss the 82-year-old, slightly stooping Englishman as a man out of touch with the current fears and concerns in Argentina. But equally, it's hard to dismiss out of hand the views of a man known and respected the world over for his experience and ability as a leading figure in world football.

Rous said: "I saw no reason why Argentina should not stage the tournament all those years ago and I still see no reason to change my mind. It is my opinion that in spite of some trials and tribulations in the meantime, I have always thought that for prestige purposes, they would do everything they could to stage a successful tournament. I think they will do that, too."

Rous rules out successful guerilla activities in the face of tight, ultra-intensive security throughout the tournament. "I don't think there will be any attempts at kidnap for the simple reason that everyone out there is so keen on football.

"I have never had any doubts in my mind regarding the suitability of the country for the finals. Of course, security will be tight but then it was very tight in West Germany four years ago. Security would be tight wherever the finals were played. So strict security measures will be in evidence in Argentina. But if you look at the recent terrorist activities out there, there hasn't been any attempt to treat sports people like businessmen, in so far as terrorist activity goes.

"I believe there is such an enthusiasm, interest and pride in staging the finals out there that it will over-ride other factors and any other fears."

European critics might look with justifiable doubts at the likely standards of refereeing next summer after the Trevor Cherry-Willie Johnston dismissals on the English and Scottish tours this past summer. How will referees react to such hostility in the highly partisan crowds that will fill the stadia?

Again, however, Sir Stanley pours cold water on any fears. "I don't think referees will be influenced by hostile crowds," he says. "Referees won't be South American when South American sides are playing so that will inevitably make things rather different to this summer. And I believe that world refereeing standards have risen enough to cope with any sort of situation out there.

"The usual pre-tournament get together of referees will be held next summer and that will be important. The referees will try to get a uniform interpretation and as they will do that, I think it should eliminate most problems."

Rous says a South American venue for the 1978 finals was "inevitable". He adds: "Even 16 years ago when I was invited to go out there, and assess their chances of getting the '78 finals, I could see no reason why the finals shouldn't be staged there.

"From the matches I saw, the stadia and the general enthusiasm and vast following the game has out there, it was clear they could more than justify their claim. And it is important now that there are still figures involved to this day that were involved from the start. It is essential to have that sort of continuity: someone to carry it through.

"I believe Argentina will provide marvellous facilities to show the world next summer. I don't have any fears or doubts about the tournament being held there. Argentina 1978 will be to the same standards as West Germany 1974 and I'm confident of the success of this tournament."

Since losing the Presidency of FIFA to Joao Havelange's determined effort a couple of years ago, Sir Stanley's commitments and hectic trips have hardly eased. Two days after talking to him, he flew off to Australia, New

FIFA off to Isra

Robin Parke reports from Hong Kong

A plaintive plea from the president of the Asian Football Confederation, Tunku Abdul Rahman, to his acquiescent counterpart in FIFA, Mr. Joao Havelange, has brought about a postponement of the confrontation between the two soccer bodies.

Originally FIFA had given their Asian subordinates up to August 5 to implement their ultimatum to reinstate Israel and Taiwan and expel mainland China. The AFC, acting unilaterally, had previously turfed out Israel — ostensibly for security reasons — and Taiwan, for solely naked political ends, and seated China.

Mr. Havelange made a brief tour of Asia in late July and met the AFC president in Penang, Malaysia, on July 20. He returned to FIFA headquarters with a compromise proposal worked out with the AFC and, on August 5, FIFA announced that the ultimatum deadline had been set back for six months.

The compromise which the FIFA president will tout on behalf of the recalcitrant Asian body is simply this: Taiwan and Israel should be switched to the Oceania group while FIFA studies ways and means for the eventual admission of China to the world body.

Mr. Havelange, of course, owes his present position to the solid support he received from Third World countries, notably those in Africa and the Middle East. They are among China's foremost supporters for admission to FIFA at the expense of Taiwan, a move which met with defeat during the 1976 FIFA Congress in Montreal. China were subsequently offered FIFA membership but brusquely declined because Taiwan was still in the organisation.

Naturally, no FIFA official wishes to see a confrontation between the world body and their Asian continental affiliate. But the compromise offered does not seem to offer much of a solution . . and it certainly does not look after the interests of two members of FIFA in good standing, Israel and Taiwan.

It is a geographical absurdity to place these two countries in the Oceania group which compromises Australia, New Zealand and a scattering of South Sea island nations and dependencies such as Fiji, Papua-New Guinea and New Caledonia.

Even if Taiwan, which has shown signs of doing anything within reason that FIFA wants in order to hold one of its last important seats on a world sporting body, was to agree, one must reasonably doubt if Israel would go along with the scheme.

There is simply no reason why Israel, a moderately powerful soccer force, should agree to add enormous expense to a yearly budget by joining the Oceania group and there is no proper reason why FIFA should force them to do so. So, in the event of a rightful Israeli refusal, the compromise goes out the window. What then?

At the time of the original ultimatum to the AFC, the FIFA press spokesman, Mr Rene Courte, spoke very strongly on the matter and in a FIFA News editorial spoke of the "unthinkable consequences" should the AFC ignore the directive.

Mr Courte repeated these views to me personally and spoke of the logical steps which would follow should the AFC not adhere to the dictates of the world body. They would face suspension and would not be permitted to run continental competition such as the Asian Youth

STICK TO ARGENTINA

Zealand and Fiji for a month's lecture tour. By the time he was back from that trip, another one — this time to Bahrain, and Saudia Arabia — was imminent. Then, a trip to Trinidad and on to Jamaica was looming.

So is it fair to say he doesn't miss the FIFA Presidency? "No, I must be honest and admit I miss the involvement of it all," he said. "Anyone would after a lifetime of it. But I'm fortunate I still have a great many things to do — in fact, I still don't have enough time to fit everything in. I'm still trying to finish my autobiography but haven't managed to do so as yet."

Sir Stanley will be in Argentina next summer in his capacity as a former President of FIFA. And doubtless his experience and advice will again be called upon by new, younger officials.

Sir Stanley will be there — but will England? And how important is it that our national side is involved? Sir Stanley has no doubts as to the importance of qualification.

"We lose an enormous amount if we don't qualify," he said. "When the World Cup was staged here, it increased interest in football tremendously. If you have a country that does well in the World finals, it rubs off on your domestic scene."

Will England qualify? "It will all finally settle on how we did against Luxembourg — I'm sure of that," he says. "I think the atmosphere at Wembley may affect the Italians' players. But I don't doubt people who say the Italians are more skilful than us — they certainly are."

More skill

Rous admits the failings of English soccer with much sadness. "Perhaps our football is too predictable," he says. "Foreign teams show individually more skill. English football is not as intelligent as others. We have a lot of players who are very skilful but we try to do it all at great speed. You cannot be 100% skilful when you are running at 60 m.p.h. Another problem we have is playing two-thirds of our season on different pitches in different conditions. In countries like Italy, the games are called off if conditions are too bad but in England, we tend to play whatever the weather."

Sir Stanley would like to see the introduction of only eight teams in the World Cup Finals after Argentina, 1978. He says: "When the competition has been brought down to the last 16, those countries should play on a home and away basis and decide the best eight teams in the world. Then, they truly would be world finals. But that doesn't happen if countries like England are not involved and others such as Haiti and Zaire, are.

"Financially it would be so much better, too. Who will watch a game between England and Italy in a town like Rosario compared to the numbers that would see the two-leg match in Rome and at Wembley. Vast crowds would be guaranteed.

"If eight teams competed, the finals would last 10-14 days and that is enough. I hope this will be introduced one day in the near future."

For the moment, Sir Stanley is happy to end on a note of optimism. His one plea for Argentina 1978 is that skill will be displayed by every player.

"The world game needs that," he says. "Skill must be the key. I hope to see attacking football and class, skilful soccer in Argentina next summer."

er 'compromise' el and Tawain

tournament and the Asian Cup; they would not receive any subsidies from FIFA for the governing and developing of the sport in Asia and would be cut off from all FIFA aid, financial or otherwise.

But even more important would be the steps which would follow that. The individual nations which belong to both the AFC and FIFA would be asked to withdraw from the AFC or face expulsion from FIFA — and all that that entails and need not be itemised here.

This, of course, is FIFA's biggest stick and the only one which will see that FIFA's directives are eventually carried out.

It would seem that both parties are involved in a game of high-stakes poker. Several militant countries in the AFC, notably the Middle Eastern states of Iran and Kuwait, want far greater Asian and African representation in FIFA and, of course, they are committed friends of China and enemies of Israel in their various standpoints with the world body.

But, equally, these countries want success on the football field and that means competitions such as the World Cup and the various Asian tournaments held by the AFC under the auspices of FIFA. They do not want to be deprived of the right to enter them — and that's what FIFA, of course, can do if the compromise — which is not really a compromise — is not reached by January 5 next year.

The AFC is riddled with political factions and there is an element in it which would push the issue to the very limits and beyond. But what is now required from FIFA is the firm stand originally expounded by Mr. Courte in the FIFA News.

China, of course, should be admitted to FIFA. It is an unhealthy paradox that the world's most populous country, in which soccer is establised as the No. 1 team participant sport, should be outside the world arena.

But there are ways and means to press her case which would not do the grave harm to the Asian game which the present course of events could lead to. Time has always been on China's side but, in the present case, her ill-advised friends are pushing the matter too far, to quickly — and the consequences could be exceptionally grave.

It is impossible for FIFA to procrastinate on this issue. It is a question so basic that any deviation would be fatal to FIFA's absolute authority over the world game. They have issued strict instructions to bring an erring member into line and have been met with an insubstantial compromise which they are, of course, not bound to accept in any manner or form.

Mr. Havelange may have acted in this matter with the best intentions, hoping to avert a confrontation. However, if he pushes the present case he will be a party to diluting FIFA's power and effectively weaking an organisation he was chosen to head.

Strong, determined action is needed — or else, in the final reckoning, it is the game itself which will suffer.

ERIC BATTY, who campaigned for Ron Greenwood to be appointed England manager even before Don Revie resigned, calls for patience

Changes should be minimal

ENGLAND's first international under Ron Greenwood has come and gone, and to the casual observer he made no impact on the game, leaving England with the same old problems and excuses: We didn't score goals or we didn't take our chances.

I make no bones about one thing: that in spite of Switzerland's dismal record in recent years, given that I had to choose one team or the other and take over that team as manager-coach, I would prefer to be in charge of Switzerland rather than England.

My reason for this is simply that at Wembley the Swiss showed themselves to be both intelligent and skilful, while England didn't, and these two ingredients are the basic essentials of the game.

I remember seeing on television Ron Greenwood quizzed by the press at the FA press conference following his appointment. He was asked why West Ham in his time, had earned a reputation for playing good football but had not achieved much in terms of results?

Ron's reply, with which any honest coach must agree was that he has always, like every other coach, been limited by the ability of the human material at his disposal. In other words, the players he has had were very often not good enough to play the way he wanted.

The first thing that really needs to be said about the game against Switzerland was that their manager, Roger Vonlanthen, had said some ten days before the game (being almost new to the job himself), was that he would try to build a good team without playing defensively. In fact he did play defensively against England, and as usual the England players found that no matter how they tried to penetrate the Swiss rearguard there was invariably one man too many for them.

On the rare occasions that the Swiss defence was prised open a fraction, goalkeeper Burgener proved himself to be more than competent.

Before going too deeply into the Wembley game, let us consider Ron Greenwood's position when he took over. He had just one friendly game in which whatever some people may think, the result didn't matter. What mattered was that his team in this friendly should show that they were going in the right direction (even if they had lost this would still have held true), and were capable of running up a good score away to Luxembourg, and then beating Italy at Wembley by enough goals to qualify for Argentina.

Mr. Greenwood, realising that *all* the really good international teams of the recent past have been based on one club, or in the case of West Germany, two clubs who play a similar brand of football, his best course was to go for a backbone of players from one club only.

To go for the champions, and European Cup holders to boot, seemed a logical choice, but there was more than that to it.

There was reason to believe that despite the typically English way that Liverpool play in league games, they could play what we shall for convenience call continental-type football.

First I have heard in conversation with Liverpool players, that they did try to play a more polished, intelligent type of game at Anfield, keeping the ball on the ground and slowing the pace down.

They won these games, but the Anfield crowd made it clear that they did not like it, that they wanted the old hurly-burly product with its high crosses and excitement under the enemy crossbar. So according to the players I spoke to, Liverpool made the conscious decision to go back to their more familiar way of playing.

The second point in favour of going for Liverpool to provide the backbone was that in the European Cup Final, Liverpool *did* change their style. *They did play* the patient game, with the ball on the floor . . . where it belongs . . . forsaking the style of play based on an endless stream of high crosses.

So there were two very good reasons for thinking that by using Liverpool to provide the backbone, England could compete with the best of the rest.

It must be conceded by everyone that taking over at short notice, Mr. Greenwood had little or no time to experiment. Knowing most of our First Division players he didn't need to go around for months on end, and once having gone for the Liverpool backbone, he had only to find other players who could fit in with Liverpool's second style as seen in Rome.

Here we come to the crunch for though I have no certain knowledge of this, I believe that the men Mr. Greenwood wanted for this were Pearson and Tueart. I do not believe he wanted Channon, Francis or Hill, but had to make the best job with what he had available.

What I am fairly sure about is that Ron asked the Liverpool players to play once more in the way they had played in the European Cup Final, and to this extent he was disappointed, let down.

Perhaps Terry McDermott understandably was affected by his first cap. Perhaps the absence of a good target like Pearson was the decisive factor. In the event it looked to me that Keegan was asked to be the target, being the best man left in the squad, but this is not a role that suits his talents.

Keegan is I believe at his best when left to plough a furrow up and down the right flank like a combination of right winger and right centre forward. So for the visit to Luxembourg I expect England's front three to be Keegan, Pearson and Tueart, which is what I think Ron wanted to put on against the Swiss.

Naturally the England supporters were disappointed by the performance of their team, but Mr. Greenwood had to put on a brave face. But the fact is that the players, with one exception, proved themselves to be totally unable to play the way they were expected to play despite all the indications that they could, as already described.

The one exception was notable, and led to the best attempt to set up a real attack by England in the whole game, and believe it or not the situation was set up by goalkeeper Ray Clemence.

Not once in the entire game did Clemence kick the ball high upfield in the traditional English style. Even from dead ball goal kicks, Clemence put the ball down quickly to play the ball outside the box to the feet of an England defender, trying as Ron wanted, to build the attacks from the back. When Clemence got the ball in his hands, he didn't hesitate but threw the ball out to the feet of a colleague.

Clemence's performance was the only indication that Greenwood had taken over and as already stated, it was him who tried to set up the best move of the game. With the Swiss attacking England's goal, Clemence won possession and looking up found Keegan on the half way line. With a very long, accurate throw, Clemence laid the ball up perfectly to the feet of Keegan who screened the ball well and laid it off first time to Francis. Unhappily, Francis was too close to Keegan and the move ended there. But for me, that was the best attempt of the night. For the

Ron Greenwood, the newly appointed England manager, with Bill Taylor (centre) and Geoff Hurst.

rest, even 35-year-old Callaghan was hurried into the trap of thumping high balls into the box.

A repeat of Liverpool's patient, painstaking build-up produced in Rome never looked like getting started, and Ron must have gone home a very disappointed man.

Sitting quietly, thinking about it the day after the match, there seems to be one possible explanation of Liverpool's failure. That in the European Cup Final, as they would in English games at Anfield, the players were not facing a team that played to the preachings of *catenaccio*.

Borussia Monchengladbach are nothing if not an attacking team, and so it seems possible that in Rome, Liverpool could play something like real football and make it pay. Now the question arises, would Liverpool have done so well against a club team like Juventus had they provided the opposition instead of Vogts, Bonhof & Co?

Perhaps the answer to that question is no, and if so, then the fact will have to be faced that once 1977 is over and England's World Cup bid has ended, one way or the other, that a new team will have to be built from scratch.

The trouble is that the only other worthwhile team on which to base an England squad is Manchester United, and they have so many non-Englishmen as to make this impossible. We all know how much Buchan and Macari mean to Manchester United, and how dismally they play without this pair. And of course they are both Scotsmen.

If Liverpool cannot do it, then the idea of basing England on one club appears to be a non-starter, so where do we go from there?

I believe that for the next two games the changes will be minimal. The men that Greenwood wanted in the first place will come back, assuming they are fit which means Pearson and Tueart for Channon and Francis. The only other position in which a change looks likely is at left back, but who comes in there is anyone's guess.

If that fails to produce a Rome-type Liverpool England, then the only other idea is to base selection on triangles, say with right winger and two midfield men from one club; centre forward and a left sided striker plus the left midfield from another, and as compact a defence from one club as can be found.

Somehow, the problem of not having time to prepare a national team must be overcome. And even when the players are given the best part of ten days together that isn't enough time, even if Ron is a genius, he isn't a magician. This is a task that takes months, years even. It cannot be done in ten days.

Looking at the England team v. Switzerland in cold blood, only Clemence (and Keegan at times) looked to be what I expect from an England player. The rest failed. This does not mean that there will be nine changes, for Mr. Greenwood must persist in his attempts to base his team on Liverpool until after the Italy game.

But looking at it logically, this Swiss team played in the style of the Italians, albeit very friendly, half-fit, semi professional Italians. And if England couldn't take them to the cleaners then they have no chance against the grown ups; the hard men; the very, very professional Italians, who despite their cast iron defence and hard working, skilful, tough midfield, also have in Roberto Bettega one of the best strikers in the business . . . and the whole lot overall are geared to win by the use of quick counter-attacks.

Make no mistake, Italy will play like the Swiss did, but play it very much better and with far more ruthlessness, far more aggression, determination and know-how.

Just for the record I liked the Swiss. Goalkeeper Burgener did well when called on; Hasler looked good at right back, and Pfister was a tower of strength. Chapuisat showed once more that he is a very accomplished player and Barberis looked threatening every time he got anywhere near the ball.

What the Swiss lacked was a player like Bettega, and perhaps a 'Kobi' Kuhn in midfield.

Rene Botteron was a disappointment to me though he played well for Schweiz, and others who do not known him might have been more impressed.

To me Botteron was a disappointment because he has not developed in the last two years. Given a more professional outlook, given the stimulus of being a pro with full time training and full fitness, Botteron by now should be a top class player, one in the groove of Gunter Netzer. He was a disappointment to me because he has not come on as he should have done.

•Continued from page 3

Burgener before the beautifully balanced Botteron — the game's outstanding player — laid on a chance which Kuttel blasted too high under pressure from close range. Another beautiful move and Clemence turned away a Barberis shot for a corner.

Switzerland's best moments all came in the first 10 minutes of the second half. Küttel and Barberis had close-range shots blocked by Clemence and Dave Watson on the goal-line in quick-fire succession, then Botteron had a glorious 30-yarder well stopped by the England goalkeeper.

After that, as Vonlanthen systematically took his tiring team apart, it was mostly England — but with Burgener, not one of the England forwards in the starring role. He saved well from Kennedy, Hill twice, Keegan and McDermott. He was lucky that Kennedy's powerful close-range shot quarter of an hour from time scored away off his knees, but he earned his fortune with good catching and clean handling.

With 10 minutes to go England put on Chelsea's Ray Wilkins for the ebbing Ian Callaghan — who hadn't done so badly in his first international for 11 years — moments after Botteron wasted a fine chance because he preferred to miss his step and take the shot with his natural left foot rather than answer the call of instinct and timing and hit the ball with his right.

It was Botteron who bore the brunt of the England frustration, collecting a kick as he lay on the ground from Callaghan, then Kennedy's elbow just before the end, which broke his nose and forced referee Georges Konrath to stop the game and send him off for treatment.

Kevin Keegan (right) in action for England against Lucio Bizzini of Switzerland.

Sweeper

Alongside Botteron and Burgener I'd single out one more Swiss player as displaying a level of skill and/or competence above anything England provided: sweeper Pierre Chapuisat. Once or twice early on he was too casual, but as England increased the pressure later on, so Chapuisat raised his game. The greater the pressure the more he seemed to enjoy himself, tidying up at the back.

Thwe Swiss had the skills; England, as ever, had the strength.

But where does this leave Greenwood? In no-man's land at the moment. He doesn't know whether he will be invited to stay on after the Italy clash in November and build his own empire from Lancaster Gate.

It might be a good idea if the chairman of the FA, professor Sir Harold Thompson, showed some faith in Greenwood and gave him a long contract and carte blanche to turn the England set-up upside down.

Enough examples have been trotted out in the Press in the past few weeks about the arrangements in some other countries, where the schoolboy, junior and youth development all falls into the grand plan. It can be achieved. Why not for England?

If anyone can bring such a master scheme into operation it is Greenwood. But will the fans, the clubs and the players have the patience to see it through?

One doubtful sign of that was the size of the Wembley crowd — 42,000, and three quarters of those decided to come only on the day and paid through the turnstiles.

A few of those, as usual, couldn't behave themselves and ran on to the pitch. At last it should really prove to have been the final Wembley invasion, since the next morning workmen were out putting up fences with suitably wicked-looking palings on top. It's hard to imagine even the rampaging, Whisky-fortified Scots getting very far over this lot!

Wembley remains, of course, apart from its bright new fences, a grubby anachronism. Its facilities are disgraceful and many's the foreign fan who has come to the stadium full of awe and left full of disgust.

The stadium is becoming a national monument. Presumably that means some people may call for it to be maintained in its original state. But after so much money has been spent so impressively on the sports complex roundabout is it asking too much for some of the largesse to be sprinkled on our most famous stadium?

The same with the England team.

A lot of money has come into the game, and will come into the game, through sponsorship. The problem is translating money into facilities into a long-term plan.

For years England's youngsters dominated the UEFA Youth tournament. But few of those players ever came through to the top grade. Accidents? Or a fault of the system? Or a lack of a continuous policy?

A long-term plan to cover coaching in junior soccer as well as league soccer, is badly needed.

Also, let's spell it out again, a great deal of patience.

OLEG BLOKHIN made a real party of his 50th international, when he scored two goals in three minutes as Russia beat Poland 4-1 in a friendly in Volgograd.

Leonid Buryak put Russia ahead with a fifth-minute penalty, and Chesnokov got a second four minutes after half-time. Grzegorz Lato pulled one back for the World Cup third-place nation, but Blokhin's goals in the 74th and 76th minutes meant the Russians went in at a canter.

MIROSLAV GAJDUSEK of Dukla Prague was the hero of Czechoslovakia's 1-0 win over Turkey in Bratislava.

But there were plenty of jeers for the European champions who made hard work of winning. The goal was an all-Dukla affair — Gajdusek beating two men and shooting in after taking a cross from Zdenek Nehoda after only two minutes.

ARTO TOLSA was the Finland culprit after their excellent display in losing only 1-0 to world champions West Germany in Helsinki.

Just before half-time Tolsa, the only professional in the side, let a pass escape him and Klaus Fischer popped up for the only time in the match to score.

At the other end Sepp Maier had to make a couple of good saves.

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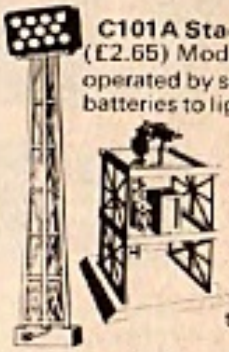

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HUNGARY PREPARE

by Leslie Vernon

SATIRISTS and critics had a field day when commenting on the tour results of the leading Hungarian teams. The majority of them went to Spain in August to prepare for the season in various four-cornered tournaments, and they were beaten mercilessly by such giants of football as Granada (4-0 v Ujpest), Las Palmas (3-0 v Honved) and Racing Santander (3-0 v Ujpest) and by others I am too ashamed to mention.

No wonder that comments like "the fifth goal in the play-off for 7th-8th places depressed the lads," and that "in the penalty competition we missed four spot-kicks, the scoreboard by inches, and the train which was scheduled to take us to our next destination by half-an-hour," were frequent in Budapest.

One journalist wrote: "Our champions were unlucky to lose against the local church team in this charming little Spanish village, and when we left, they asked us back next season — teams like ours are always welcome there!"

I was highly amused, but since most of the jibes lose a great deal in translation, I refrain to bore you with those typical examples of Hungarian gallows-humour. In fact, the F.A. dignitaries were not laughing either, and on their arrival back in Budapest, instead of the red-carpet reception, an immediate touring ban was slapped on all Hungarian teams.

No friendly matches against foreign opposition, home or away, until January 1st, 1978! These humiliations were even more galling than usual, because the improvement of the national side's results gave the impression (false?) that the gap between the Magyars and the leading footballing nations had narrowed.

And the traditional Champions' Tournament prior to the tours, provided reasonable fare for the fans. Honved won this trophy by beating Ujpest Dozsa 2-0 in the Final (Kozma, Bodonyi), and as Ferencvaros lost a stormy game — Magyar was sent-off — 2-1 to Vasas, the latter finished third.

In Hungary, the F.A. habitually "arrange" the League fixture list, there is no question of a draw or the possibility of some silly computer interfering with "the interest of the game as a whole."

Therefore it is thought advisable that before important international fixtures, the players involved need difficult or easy games, because only by playing a difficult or easy game would they be tough or fresh enough to cope with foreign opposition.

This year, theory No. 1 ruled the roost, and the campaign opened with four "derbys" on the Saturday — Wednesday rota, involving all four top clubs of Budapest in double-headers in the Nepstadium. On the opening day, Ujpest beat Vasas 1-0 with a goal in the 43rd minute by Laszlo Nagy. The lilac-and-whites were without Viczko (family bereavement) and the newly signed Kovacs (dropped), and in goal, Rothermel's place was given to young Zoltan Toth. Manager Varadi's tactical plans worked to perfection.

Sarlos marked the international Kovacs out of the game, and the dangerous Vasas midfield was subdued by the constant harassment of their opposite numbers. After this largely defensive *hors-d'oeuvre*, the Ferencvaros v. Honved main dish was much more appetizing. Young Takacs, who took over from the injured Mucha gave Fradi the lead, and Puszati made it 2-0 after half-time. In the 62nd minute, Pinter centred for Kozma, who hit the post, but the ball re-bounded into the net from the prostrate debutante goalkeeper, Zsiboms — 2-1 to Fradi (who didn't go on tour!).

Four days later, only 35,000 people turned-up to see the same four teams — exactly half of the 70,000 crowd which witnessed the opening matches. Whether this dramatic drop in interest was due to the fact that it is less convenient to attend midweek games, or that it was rather an implied criticism of the standard of football, it is impossible to say.

But those people who voted with their feet missed an excellent match between Vasas and Fradi. Gass was the only scorer in the first-half, then Kovacs made it 2-0 in the 53rd minute. A Takacs-Pogany-Szokolai move gave FTC a chance to get back into the game, but Gass again and Izso made it 4-1 — a carbon copy of the result when the teams met last spring. Dozsa once again won 1-0, this time against Honved, with a goal by — yes, you've guessed it — L. Nagy!

In the meantime, Tatabanya beat Videoton, Kaposvar, and in the third round, Haladas. They are joint leaders with Dozsa on six, with newcomers Szekesfehervar (!), managed by ex-international Szentmihalyi, and Diosgyor on five points each.

As Ferencvaros only have three points (a draw v. Kaposvar), Vasas (beaten by Csepel) and Honved only two each, Dozsa have a commanding lead over the other serious championship contenders.

The beginning of a new season is a good excuse to publish statistics which please the older generation who enjoy wallowing in nostalgia. This time, it was the "goal-kings" of each League season between 1901 and '77, which reminded me of the heroes of my youth.

In the immediate pre-war period, Cseh Matyi was the top man twice, later Zsengeller took the honours five times, and Dr. Gyorgy Sarosi in three seasons. Ferenc Deak got 66 goals in 1946 (a record!), and between 1950-54 Puskas and Kocsis shared the title with three wins each, if we include 1948, when "Oesi" Puskas got 50 goals! In more recent years, Florian Albert (3), Lajos Tichy (4), Ferenc Bene (5), Antal Dunai (3), and Mihaly Kozma (3) have dominated the race. But, for the historians, it must be mentioned that before the First World War, Imre Schlosser was "goal-king" for six seasons running, "Speci" Schaffer had two titles in 1918(19, and perhaps the greatest Hungarian player of all-times, Gyorgy Orth, was the top-scorer in three consecutive seasons (1920-22).

But let's get back to the pressing problem of today, which is, of course, World Cup qualification against Bolivia. The 26-strong squad, which included those wayward characters Torocsik and Ebedli, who have been forgiven, trains together under Lajos Baroti one or two days every week: Gujdar, Meszaros, Gaspar, Martos, Torok, Vegh, Balint, I. Kocsis, Kereki, Rab, J. Toth, Virag, Nyilasi, Pinter, Zombori, Csongradi, Ebedli, A. Toth, Muller, Pusztai, Fazekas, Kovacs, Torocsik, Izso, Varadi, L. Nagy.

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MULLER —STILL WORLD CLASS

by ERIC BATTY

I KNOW that when I choose 'my' World team each year that I upset a great many people whose favourite player is not included, and this year I had several letters anticipating that I would be doing it again.

I had three readers write urging the claims of Roberto Rivelino upon me, and though the Brazilian is still a very gifted player, I haven't included him for several reasons, the most important of which is that I don't think he is now anywhere near as good as he was in 1970.

On top of that, Rivelino's fiery temperament has got him into trouble with referees several times in the last 18 months, and while I recognise that players like him 'should be' protected by our officials (and are not), the fact is that Roberto too often blows his top.

Essentially, any team chosen by an individual is an arbitrary affair for so much depends on how the big name players perform on the days that any one individual sees them play, and it would be both unfair and unrealistic to name players based purely on their newspaper reputations.

Like many other people with an interest in international football I receive a tremendous pile of sports and football magazines and papers from all over the world, more than enough to fill a normal dustbin each month. If one believes everything that 'home' journalists write about their players, any reader could be misled into thinking that quite ordinary players were in fact superstars. So quite reasonably I think, my choice has been limited to players that I have actually seen during the period under review.

This has always been my custom and it is obvious that living in England, though travelling quite frequently, I have great difficulty in assessing candidates from South America, and who knows, without having a look there might well be truly outstanding players in Africa or Asia. In particular here I would be very interested to see Iran play right now for they are putting together a string of good results and might provide a surprise in the World Cup.

But overall I have usually found that though South Americans can build up big reputations, the game in that continent is still quite different from in Europe and when the likes of Brazil and Argentina, Uruguay and Peru come to Europe or assemble for a World Cup, such reputations are often shattered.

Two examples serve to underline this. Before the 1974 World Cup I recall going to Berlin to see Brazil beat West Germany 1-0. According to all the available information, Paulo Cesar was the man to watch amongst the Brazilians. In the event, and this was later confirmed by observation of the World Cup, Paulo Cesar was either grossly over-rated by journalists looking at him with prejudiced eyes, or he was the type of player that was completely unable to adapt himself to the game in Europe.

On the other hand, within a few minutes of the Berlin game I had noted the big black centre back from Brazil, Luis Pereira, who went on to be their best player in the following World Cup.

My current team contains several changes from that of a year ago and being fair, having previously lauded a Czech player called Antonin Panenka, I now to confess that he has gone through the bottom of the floor. Panenka was incredibly good when I saw him two years ago, and will surely be remembered by most fans for his fantastic penalty that clinched the 1976 European championship for Czechoslovakia.

Strangely the Czechs are at the moment of writing still held in high regard, but this will, I am sure change drastically after their visit to Glasgow. They are still thought of as formidable, despite my attempts in *World Soccer* to write them off after their pathetic showing against Wales. Panenka that day had a stinker, and some time later, in conversation with the Czech manager Vaclav Jezek, he told me that he had watched the film of the game time after time, and one of the interesting points to come out of his repeated viewings was the fact that Panenka only touched the ball eight times in the entire 90 minutes!

I knew he had a stinker, but didn't realise that he contributed so little to the game as that.

Another surprise for regular readers will be my inclusion of Johan Cruyff whom I have frequently overlooked since he left Ajax. Cruyff regains his place in my team because while he still wears the number 9 shirt I have re-positioned him in my mind and accepted him for what he wants to be: a midfield general. There was another factor too: that I could not think of any other player whom I had seen, to line up in midfield with Peters and Bonhof.

I know that many people will criticise Berti Vogts inclusion having seen him in the European Cup Final, but I include him for an outstanding performance a few weeks earlier against Dynamo Kiev when he not only locked up Oleg Blockin but also did a great deal of work supporting the Borussia attack and was instrumental in the scoring of their second goal that day.

Similarly I expect those in the know to argue against the inclusion of Beckenbauer and Luis Pereira on the same type — the covering, sweeper type centre back. I make no excuses for this, because stoppers generally are not skilful players, and this above all, allied to intelligence is what makes football an attractive game to me, and the purely destructive side of the game has little to commend it.

Finally, a word about Franco Causio and Gerd Muller. Causio, I know, drops back to work in midfield, but from there he brings the ball forward very well indeed. He may not be an out and outwinger like Rensenbrink, but I don't know of a better man on the right. And if anyone wants to argue that Muller is finished, just think. He suffered from a back injury last season, often playing in spite of it, and yet his overall record in West German league games was to knock in 28 goals during the 25 matches he played in. Hardly the record of a player on his way out.

PLAYER PORTRAIT

Jurgen makes welcome return

THREE YEARS ago Jürgen Sparwasser had really made a name for himself. He had scored the goal by which East Germany beat eventual winners West Germany in the World Cup Finals and, it appeared, was set fair to become one of his nation's greatest stars.

But . . . in three years we have heard next to nothing of him. While East Germany have wavered — losing in that time to Iceland of all people — Sparwasser's name has been consistently absent from the line-ups.

Not long after the Hamburg triumph he was named as captain by coach Georg Buschner, against France in the European Championship. And then . . . nothing, at least, at international level.

At 29, Sparwasser was in danger of becoming a has-been. But just when it seemed he was out on a limb for good, injuries to Hans-Jürgen Kreische and Joachim Streich forced Buschner to recall him for the curtain-raiser to the new season, a friendly with Russia in Leipzig.

There was a 95,000 crowd to witness Sparwasser's return from the wilderness of illness, injury and loss of confidence. They weren't disappointed. After just eight minutes a moment of deft control, a swerve beyond a defender and he curled in a pass which Reinhard Häfner shot in for the first goal.

Aleksandr Bubnov equalised in the 22nd minute and it looked like stalemate right to the final whistle. But four minutes from time Russian forward David Kipiani was sent off and the East Germans, drawing confidence from being a man ahead, stormed back in search of a winner.

They got it too — and Sparwasser was the scorer with virtually the last kick.

And that presents Buschner with a problem. When Kreische is fit, and Streich — Sparwasser's Magdeburg team-mate — has recovered from his broken arm, it's hard to see how he can juggle his team. Sparwasser, said the experts next day, certainly deserves a chance of regaining his regular place in the forward line.

So what went amiss over the past three years?

"Well, there have been so many little things going wrong," said the Magdeburg man. "I've had back strains and muscle pulls, and then people were always going on about whether Buschner should pick me for the team or Dresden's Hans-Jürgen Riediger.

"That's not right. Not all the time. Now I just want to show I'm fully fit again and can play a part in our final World Cup qualifying matches. Not just to be in the squad. That's not enough for me. I want to be in the team, to help us win our games.

"I've got my eye on going to Argentina, you know. That would be the crowning achievement of my career."

Magdeburg's coach, Klaus Ukranczyk, the former Chemie Halle international defender and footballer of the year 13 seasons ago, is confident Sparwasser will make it to Argentina — if East Germany do.

"He still lacks a bit of acceleration, but that will come back when he once convinces himself he's got over all those niggling injuries which have upset him since 1974."

Sparwasser was born in the town of Halberstadt, 40 miles from Magdeburg and on the East German side of the Harz mountains, on June 4, 1948. He stands exactly six foot, but doesn't quite look it.

East German clubs collect young players as systematically as you would imagine. The best youngsters in each region graduate through local clubs until the nearest first division side must decide whether to take them on or give them their freedom — either to join another team if they can, or fall into oblivion.

Often players are taken on whether they show a lot of promise or not, for in the state/amateur set-up it's easy enough for a player to be found a handy job or a student apprenticeship while he either fulfils his promise, or falls by the wayside.

At the end of it all, if he has nothing else, then at least he has a job to go to.

Sparwasser, for example, was put into a training course for mechanics when Magdeburg took him over from Halberstadt at the age of 16 in 1964. And certainly, in his first two years with Magdeburg, it looked as if the precaution of having a trade would prove valuable insurance.

Under their old name of Aufbau Magdeburg, the club won the Cup in 1964 and 1965, but Sparwasser missed out on the glory. He made his first division debut at 18 in 1965-66 and Magdeburg finished 14th and bottom and were relegated.

That led to a big shake-up. The club was renamed FC Magdeburg, a new executive committee took over, and in looking for a new coach chairman Herbert Groth made an inspired choice. The man he turned to was Heinz Krügel, a 45-year-old who had worked on the Deutscher Fussband-Verband coaching staff from 1958 to 1961, and then with Chemie Halle, taking them to the Cup in 1962. But Krügel's hopes of European glory had faded in a first round defeat by OFK Belgrade in the Cup-winners' Cup.

Now he saw in Magdeburg the type of challenge which appealed to him. Krügel had discovered that just waiting in the wings were a host of extremely promising young players — Sparwasser among them.

The dark-haired centre-forward had already played 19 matches for the East German youth team, which included a place in the side who beat England 3-2 to win the UEFA tournament in 1965. Together with goalkeeper Jürgen Croy and Dresden schemer Kreische, Sparwasser would go on to greater things — including the bronze medal in the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

In 1966-67 Krügel rebuilt Magdeburg around his two best young players, Sparwasser and midfielder Wolfgang Seguin, and a team with an average age of 24 bounced back into the first division at the first attempt.

But not only did they bounce back. Very soon Magdeburg's attacking football was winning matches and trophies and putting them on the European map. It was in vain the fans called for the defence to be strengthened.

And while Magdeburg were winning Krügel was safe. In 1968 they finished third, repeated that in 1969 and won the Cup as well. In 1971 they were fourth and the next year won the championship for the first time. The next year they won the Cup again and were runners-up in the league.

In Europe, however, they made slow initial progress. In the Cup-winners' Cup in 1969-70 they beat MTK Budapest 1-0, 1-1 but then lost to Academica Coimbra 1-0, 0-2. All three Magdeburg goals were scored by Sparwasser — but he was also the culprit with a bad miss nine minutes before the end of the second leg in Portugal when an away goal would have won the tie. In the Champions' Cup in 1972-73 he was among the goals again — hitting two in the first leg of the 6-0, 3-1 win over Finland's Turku PS. But in the second round the defensive expertise of Juventus stopper Francesco Morini was too much for him, and Magdeburg were beaten 1-0 home and away.

But it was Magdeburg's domestic Cup triumph at the end of that season which cleared the way for the high point of Sparwasser's career, setting the club on the path to a surprising victory over Milan in the Cup-winners' Cup Final and providing the impetus on which East Germany capitalised a few weeks later in the World Cup Finals.

Against Milan Magdeburg fielded six of the men in Buschner's World Cup squad. It was still a young team. Krügel had now

Jurgen Sparwasser.

by KEIR RADNEDGE

introduced 21-year-olds in Axel Tyll and Jürgen Pommerenke, and a 19-year-old in the fair-haired winger, Martin Hoffmann.

Magdeburg had reached the final with victories over Breda, Banik Ostrava, Beroe Stara Zagora, and Sporting Lisbon. Sparwasser hit the winner in extra time in the second leg with Banik and had a vital goal in each leg in the semi-final against Sporting.

He didn't score in the final in Rotterdam, but an own goal by Enrico Lanzi and a shot from Seguin quarter of an hour from the end were enough to delight the Magdeburg fans in the pitifully small 5,000 crowd.

"Milan disappointed me so much," said Sparwasser afterwards. "Sporting were a much stronger side. And if Borussia Moenchengladbach had been in the final, instead of Milan, it would have been harder for us — but better for the spectators."

But a head-on clash between the best of East and West Germany was not long in the offing — in the World Cup finals. And though Sparwasser, whose international debut came in a 1-0 defeat by Chile in Magdeburg five years before, has earned his place in soccer history with his one goal during the finals, it would be unfair to forget his role as East Germany fought for the right to cross the border.

Qualifying game

He made goals for Kreische and Streich and scored two himself in the 5-0 win over Finland, effectively silencing the critical Dresden fans, then scored again in the 2-0 win over Albania. In the last qualifying game, a match East Germany had to win in Tirana, Sparwasser was again among the goals in a 4-1 win over Albania.

Now an honoured master of sport he played in all East Germany's games in the finals — the 2-0 win over Australia, the 1-1 draw with Chile, the 1-0 win over West Germany and the three second round games. But the big match was the one in Hamburg with West Germany. It was the first meeting at senior level of the two countries, the match everyone wanted to see. It was far more than a football match, it was a political event, decided only 13 minutes from time when Sparwasser picked up a cross from substitute Erich Hamann and picked his spot past Sepp Maier before Horst-Dieter Höttges and Berti Vogts could tackle.

Sparwasser was buried beneath his ecstatic team-mates. The West Germans were shattered. But ironically, they benefited more from this defeat. While they finished second in the group and qualified for an easier second round, East Germany finished top and had to go in with Brazil, Holland and Argentina. Defeats by Brazil and Holland and a draw with Argentina, and their World Cup campaign had ended in anti-climax.

Back home again, Sparwasser wasn't long on top of the world. In pre-season training he broke a bone in his leg and while the rest of the team took 13 points from their first seven league games, Sparwasser had to sweat on whether he would be fit in time for the Champions' Cup clash with holders, Bayern Munich.

He returned to the league a week or two before in a 1-0 away win against Wismut Aue and now, barely was he back, than Pommerenke — who had scored the winner in Aue — was hurt in turn. Krügel wasn't happy about including Sparwasser, particularly for the first leg in Munich. But with Pommerenke struggling he had no option.

After the victory over Milan, Sparwasser had told us: "Now if we could beat Bayern in the SuperCup, that would be the greatest win of all."

Instead Bayern ducked the SuperCup, only to have their hopes of avoiding the East Germans ruined by the Champions' Cup draw. Victory now meant so much on both sides.

"But overconfidence could still be their worst enemy," said Sparwasser before the game, and how right he was!

Magdeburg's players had been offered a Schiguli car (the East German-built Fiat 127) each for beating Bayern, while the West Germans knew that victory would bring them in about £2,500 a man. Didn't Sparwasser feel jealous at the financial rewards open to players in the West?

"Not really. Just as a player in the West makes money to set him up, if he's lucky, so our clubs make sure we learn a trade or profession. That provides us with our security for life. It's also a little more protection against inflation, too!"

Sparwasser had by now completed his training as a mechanic and begun a course as a sports instructor. And what a lesson he handed out to Bayern!

The Munich first leg began in sensational style, with Hoffmann putting Magdeburg ahead inside the first minute. Four minutes before the interval Sparwasser crashed home a Pommerenke centre. Magdeburg were 2-0 ahead!

It couldn't last. Bayern stormed forward in the second half. Gerd Müller converted a penalty, then scored twice more. Magdeburg were 3-2 down, yet came within a whisker of a draw four minutes from time when Sparwasser rose above Hand-Georg Schwarzenbeck and Franz Beckenbauer to head past Maier . . . and against a post!

The second leg in the 45,000-capacity — and overflowing — Ernst-Grube-stadion, was an exact reversal, up to a point. Gerd Müller shot Bayern 2-0 clear in the 22nd and 55th minutes, but this time Magdeburg couldn't match Bayern's recuperative powers.

Seven minutes after Müller's second, Hoffmann cut inside, drew Schwarzenbeck out of position and created the space for Sparwasser to lift his head and send in a glancing header. Maier clawed the ball back over the line, but though the goal stood, it was not enough.

East German soccer took a battering then. Held in Magdeburg by Iceland in the European Championship, they lost to Czechoslovakia and Scotland in friendlies. Sparwasser scored a goal after running out as captain in the 2-2 draw with France in Paris, but by now Buschner had decided it was time to be ruthless with his World Cup heroes.

Despite Magdeburg's fine form in the league — they would finish three points clear of Carl Zeiss Jena having lost only two games — Sparwasser missed the celebrations because of back trouble, and that kept him too from going on the East German tour of South America in the summer.

He had now played 44 times for his country, but secretly may have been pleased that he couldn't immediately regain his place as East Germany lost 2-1 to Iceland.

But there was no profit for him, as he had hoped. His injuries and continued absence from the national squad affected his form and Magdeburg suffered in turn.

In the Champions' Cup they went out on penalties in the first round to Malmoe and in the league ended up third, seven points behind new champions Dresden.

The match which settled it was a 2-0 home defeat by Dresden. Sparwasser was there, but you would hardly have noticed. There was none of the sparkle I'd noticed three weeks before when he scored in an easy 3-1 win over Lok Leipzig.

● Continued on page 43

Yugoslavia kiss goodbye to World Cup hopes...

Dragan Djazic — back in Yugoslavia.

FLAG FLIES HALF-MAST

by Arthur Rotmil

THE FLAG of Yugoslavia's football is flying at half mast. The national team played just two matches in their World Cup qualifying group and has virtually been eliminated. This was a bitter pill to swallow for the thousands of fans weaned on highly skilled soccer from its leading players and looking back on a long tradition of producing many world class stars.

Admittedly, this GROUP VIII is tough with Spain and improved Rumania as Yugoslavia's rivals. But an unlucky 0-1 defeat in Seville, through a dubious penalty and after the Slavs had 80 per cent of the game and worse still, a 0-2 setback on their home ground in Zagreb, have effectively ended hopes of reaching Argentina.

The recent managerial changes have not helped, but of course, the main fault lies in the lack of lethal strikers of international class. No goals in the World Cup ties and no goals on the summer tour of South America. There the Slavs, from all accounts, played extremely well against Brazil and were unfortunate just to draw 0-0 and then, in a narrow 0-1 (again by a penalty!), defeat in Argentina, that chronic weakness was as evident as ever — no punch up front.

The old, but still very much valid excuse is that the country's best players invariably go abroad to make money with foreign professional clubs and that when they are called up to play for the national team they lack understanding with their colleagues, who in any case being envious of their financial status only reluctantly accept them back in the fold.

Secondly, the wretched law which compels every able bodied male to complete a tough stint in the army is affecting footballers more than other athletes who can keep training individually.

Elite

And most players are required to catch up on their National Service at a different age and frequently in the middle of their career. They often lose form or worse still, are never the same after a lengthy spell of military training.

Yugoslavia would be the world's leading soccer power if (a) the country didn't lose a legion of elite footballers who have been allowed to emigrate abroad and (b) if the resident top players, without exception, wouldn't have their talent ruined by the rigorous life of a soldier.

On the domestic front the 18 clubs in the First Division began the new season more or less well prepared. The summer break was for the professional players extremely short. Several internationals like Petrovic, Savic and Filipovic (all from the champions Red Star Belgrade), didn't have a day's rest, because having returned with the national squad from a tour of South America, they had to leave the following day (!), with the club on a trip to Singapore and Australia.

Red Star won the first tournament and beat both Glasgow Celtic and Arsenal over there. But such a demanding programme soon took its toll and now the champions have been toppled from the leading position in the table. During the overseas tour the team played six games and trained 21 times, all in the space of 23 days!

Red Star's chief rivals in the title race, namely Dynamo Zagreb, Hajduk Split and Partizan Belgrade enjoyed at least a 10-15 days break before they resumed pre-season training. Second Division club OFK Kikinda even travelled up to Scotland where the squad, led by the former international goalkeeper Milutin Soskic, stayed in Stonehaven, played two matches and performed twelve training sessions.

In the previews for the new season the "big four" figure prominently as candidates for the champions crown. Above all Red Star, who can field virtually the same team as last year and have been strengthened by the return of their world famous winger Dragan Dzajic from Bastia (France), and defender Keri, who has finished his army service. The title holders boast the largest professional squad in the country (35 men) but the weak point is their defence and this many prove something of a handicap.

The most expensive signings have been reported by Hajduk: Drago Rukljac from FC Zagreb, one of the best midfield players in the land, and Boro Primorac (from Velez Mostar) who should replace the departed Ivan Buljan (to Hamburger SV). Under new boss Vlatko Markovic and with a group of young players like the brothers Vujovic, Cop and Nikolic the outfit from Split are well set for honours.

A former international Vukovic came back from army duty to strengthen Partizan. Their manager, the recently deposed national chief Ante Mladinic, is banking on youth and he has in centre forward Jovic a star of the future. Dynamo Zagreb, on the other hand, have had less luck. The newly acquired defender Novoselac is injured, while the highly talented youngster Kranjcar drove into a lorry! Both will be out of action for some weeks, just as Dynamo were being tipped to win their first League title for 21 years!

Out of the 18 clubs, no fewer than ten have new managers (!) and thus expectations run high — only the national team is in disgrace, and no one talks about that anymore!

POPULAR ENGLAND

● ENGLAND'S popularity in Argentina, despite political undertones, was confirmed when their match produced the highest gate in the series of seven weekly internationals played by Argentina in Buenos Aires recently. Next highest gate was in the match against world champions West Germany and then Scotland.

● ARGENTINA'S national team reassembled for training during August with coach Menotti picking only 15 or the 21 players who did duty in the seven matches which ended a month earlier. Among those left out was defender Pernia sent off for punching and spitting (together with "victim" Johnstone) against Scotland and subsequently suspended for eight international games.

This was not believed as a disciplinary measure however as Bertoni, sent off for hitting England's Cherry (who was also sent off) was included, his four match suspension already ended. Many believe however that 31-year-old Pernia's international career may be over. Among others included in the squad is 16-year-old Maradona who made his international debut during the 5-1 victory over Hungary in Buenos Aires earlier this year.

● PERU'S national squad, which qualified for the World Cup finals by placing second in the South American final round, has been disbanded and will be recalled in January. The transfer of leading players to foreign clubs will be banned for the moment.

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

BY the time you read this, the players may or may not be out on strike. Meanwhile, I have been looking at the memoirs of one who was a pioneer of their cause; Jimmy Guthrie. His book, SOCCER REBEL (Pentagon, £3.50) written in collaboration with that likeable Cockney journalist Dave Caldwell, uncrowned King of the Millwall Press Box, was one of the less likely publishing events of 1976.

Why now? one asked oneself. Why Guthrie? I remembered him well enough, not only as the large, bluff Scotsman who for so many years represented the interests of the Players' Union — as it was then more plainly called — but as right-half and captain of the Portsmouth team. He skippered them to the F.A. Cup of 1939 when they won that notable 4-1 victory over Wolves; as a consequence of which his waxwork, shaking hands with that of Stanley Cullis, the Wolves skipper, stood in Madame Tussauds throughout the war, there being no Cup played.

Despite the forewords by Danny Blanchflower and that soccer loving M.p., J. P. W. Mallalieu, both of which go to some lengths to stress how cruelly and ungratefully Guthrie was treated by the players he served, it is hard to see who could have bought the book, what prompted the publisher to bring it out when they did.

There is a certain pathos about its padding, the banal chapter on the Press, with its gauche attempts to hand out bouquets all round, while making general criticism, its hollow-sounding eulogy of the lamentable Revie: "Don Revie is a good man and will be good for the football's future."

Glimpses

Yet I am glad he, and Dave Caldwell, wrote the book and glad that it was published, because — quite aside from some fascinating glimpses into the cold, harsh world of pre-war football — it is a most useful contribution to the history of the game, in particular of the players' fight for decent treatment.

The hero of that fight must, for me, remain Jimmy Hill, without whose magnetic influence the players would never have won their battle, in 1961, to smash the iniquitous maximum wage. Hill fought on when his colleagues would have been quite happy to settle for an extra ten pounds on the £20 maximum. Flamboyant and self-projecting he may have been; but so he had to be, to gain his cause.

I don't think Guthrie, much though he accomplished for his men, was historically the right figure to have won that battle. I do think the demand of the changing times necessitated a Hill. But I also think that Blanchflower and Mallalieu are right when they say that Guthrie, President of the Union for so long, was most shabbily and shamefully treated. Besides, in Guthries' day, the subsequent militancy of the players — which Hill managed, by dint of great effort, to fan into flame — was inconceivable.

Guthrie has a gloriously revealing anecdote of a joint negotiating committee meeting with the Football League when one of his own committee members went round the other side of the table to ask the Football League delegated for their autographs! I remember poor Walley Barnes, the ex-Wales and Arsenal full-back who so sadly died last year, complaining to me in those remote days that Guthrie actually went into such meetings and thumped the table, saying, "I want this and that!"

"Well, you can't do *that!*" said Barnes, in a shocked tone. Therein lay the essential impotence of the forelock tugging players' movement; but at least the footballers did pull themselves out of such feudalistic subservience, while the cricketers for years permitted themselves to be undermined and exploited, till the whole thing blew up so unpleasantly with the founding and forming of the Packer Circus.

Guthrie tells a worrying story of how, behind his back, his Players' Union committee members switched their insurance contract in 1953 to a firm which, allegedly, gave much poorer terms; the new contract being arranged by a committee member who was himself a part time underwriter.

Guthrie pbjected fiercely to this, as well he might, but his reward was to find himself dealt out of the game at the 1957 Annual General Meeting in Manchester on the ludicrous grounds that he was not a current player and was therefore ineligible for the Presidency; a consideration which has been just as valid for the past decade.

The historical process, I repeat, would shortly demand a Hill rather than a Guthrie, but there are ways and ways of doing things, and I must, again, agree with Blanchflower and Mallalieu. Guthrie deserved infinitely better treatment than this.

I hope his book, which damningly rehearses the past stinginess and inflexibility of the Football League and the F.A., will not be ignored. At the very least, it will be required reading to those sociological young men at provincial universites who are making such themes the subject of their degree theses.

TALKING of players and their contractural problems, it is quite amazing that the Italian footballers should be content, whatever their vast salaries, to dwell so darkly in the Middle Ages. Despite the fact that their players' union is led by the eloquent lawyer, ex inside-left of Vicenza, Sergio Campana, they still do not possess the right to say yea or nay to a transfer. So we had the strange, pathetic case of Pietro Virdis, poor little rich boy, golden slave, sold by Cagliari to Juventus for £1,400,000; and forced to make the long trek north from his island home, against his will.

For a week or two the 20-year-old Virdis, a left winger of much promise – as he should be for the fee! – insisted that he wanted to stay in Sardinia; though clearly he never had a chance. Giampiero Boniperti, the Juventus President, was appalled, out-raged, alarmed. He flew hither and yon, talking to Virdis, and eventually succeeded in talking him round. Virdis did leave Sardinia, did leave Cagliari, did travel to the mainland to join Juventus in the training camp, found everybody was immensely welcoming, apologised to everyone in sight and some who were not, and signed on the dotted line. Poor (if that is the word) Virdis. But when will the Italian players break the golden shackles?

SIGNS of the times down at Dorchester, where the ebullient and amiable David Best, once goalkeeper of Ipswich Town, enters his second full season of management. I visited him at the charming little ground, with its delectable green background of fields and hills, and found him full of optimism for the new season.

Ron Davies (ex-Southampton and Wales) has made much of the difference, playing, sometimes in defence, for the Los Angeles Aztecs during the summer, but in his proper position of centre-forward for Dorchester during the winter, sometimes swelling the crowd to 900.

Best has been remarkably successful in persuading good young players from Exeter City to join him for nothing. One of them, a 22-year-old midfielder or centre-half, now has a council job and a council flat in Dorchester, picks up £25 a week with the club as a part-time player, over and above his other wage, and says he wouldn't dream of going back to League football. At his warm recommendation, two more Exeter players joined Dorchester on "frees" this summer; one of them had made twenty appearances in the League last season, when Exeter were of course promoted.

I must say that I feel such players as Best are very wise to gain experience with small non-League clubs embarking on League management. For want of the thorough kind of course the West Germans have, we are forever plunging our professionals into instant management, long before they can possibly be ready.

POKOU LINKS WITH PLATINI

NO apologies offered for writing again about one of my favourite players in French football, Laurent Pokou, that gifted but ever star crossed centre-forward. As readers may remember, it took years before Rennes at last persuaded Pokou, a leading African star as the Ivory Coast centre-forward, to play in the French League. His "reward" for that was a dreadful knee ligaments injury suffered as the result of a brutal foul by a Second Division opponent; despite his excellence, Rennes had been relegated.

But Pokou last season fought his way back and now, at the age of 30, he has been in some sense reborn in our football. He has been transferred from Rennes, that's to say, to Nancy, where he links up with another player of the highest quality, the brilliant young Michel Platini, who is delighted to have him there. "There's no problem with him," Platini says. "He is always smiling and happy to be alive!"

Pokou's great strength is his ability to buzz about all over the line of the attack, thus creating abundant space for other people. There seems little doubt that Platini in particular, with his flair for scoring as well as creating, will benefit immensely from this, during the season. It took poor Pokou fifteen months to get over his injury, but with any luck, and with the kind of support he will get with Nancy, he should have several good years left.

Another centre-forward who has changed clubs is the much travelled Jacky Vergnes. Brought up among the sunlit vineyards of Magalas, he now finds himself in the gelid North with Strasbourg but says it suits him very well and that he is happy in Alsace. At 29, Vergnes played once for France and, with his heading power, lives in hope of a recall. Last season he played for the newly promoted Laval, on loan from Reims, he wanted to keep him; not least because they had just been obliged to part company with Carlos Bianchi, the Argentinian who has been their leading scorer for so many years; and has been finding life scarcely any easier, at the start of the season, with the highly ambitious Paris Saint Germain.

There were two years of Vergnes' contract still to run with Reims and Laval themselves wanted to retain him. But Strasbourg's offer was of a three year contract on better terms, and Vergnes decided he would prefer it. He is especially happy to be playing in Alsace under the managership of Gilbert Gress, a star player both there and in the West German Bundesliga in the recent past.

Each manager, Vergnes finds, seems to reflect in his outlook the position that he had on the field and Gress, as a former attacker, is very much on his wavelength.

Marseille may yet regret the letting go of Jean-Marc Martinez, a lively midfielder who had expected to stay with the South Coast club till Josip Skoblar took over as general manager, called him in one day, and told him that he would be going. Martinez, who has played already for the French Under 21 team, is now with Lyon, who are delighted with him: one more player who seems to have made without much difficulty the transition from the sunlit South — he used to play with Martigues — to the cooler North. Martinez says he also likes the way the Lyon team — which of course includes such stars in attack as little ("I won't play for France") Serge Chiesa, and the penetrative French international centre, Lacombe — play; all short passes and rapid circulation of the ball.

Michel Platini and Eric Pecout (9) of Rennes.

But if Marseille have lost Martinez, they have gained Berdoll. At a cost of 300,000 marks — some £60,000, I suppose, which seems reasonable indeed. Paid to the West German club, Saarbrucken, where Berdoll had a miserable time of it, a young centre-forward who set things alight with Angers in France, scoring no fewer than 29 goals in season 1973/4, a single goal behind Carlos Bianchi, but who found life a lot harder with Saarbrucken. There, Berdoll made no true impact, but he hopes to re-establish himself with Marseille, and his return may well be good news for our team manager Michel Hidalgo, with the vital clash with Bulgaria heaving up on the horizon.

Two and a half hours of training twice a day in the *Bundesliga* was not at all what the doctor ordered for Berdoll. Marc Berdoll says he realised now that he made a mistake in going to play in Germany. He says that he simply didn't know enough about the kind of football that it was, its hardness, its disciplines, its constraints. It was a physical kind of football to which he just didn't adapt, playing but eight full games, plus another eight as substitute. Nor did the language barrier help. Nor did it help when the Yugoslavian team manager was sacked and in came a German successor called Kraft who brought with him his own centre-forward. The successor had his early problems in adapting but in the end settled and did much better than Berdoll, though it is doubtful if he has the same talent.

Power, experience and money are, says Berdoll, what he feels he gained from his otherwise largely negative experience in West German football. Now let us hope Marseille, and who knows, perhaps the French international team itself, will reap the benefit.

Well on his way up, meanwhile, is that amiable figure, right-back for the French international team, deep admirer of Marius Tresor, Patrick Battiston, only 20 years old, a stylish and effective player, living happily with his family in Metz, where he plays. He's criticised for not being hard enough. Perhaps he just happens to be a decent, honest sportsman. A rare breed nowadays.

News from France by ANDRE DUCLOS

Andrew Dettre reports from Sydney

Australia outplayed by Korea and Iran

IRAN to represent Asia and Oceania at next year's World Cup finals — this is my reluctant though considered forecast. Having seen all the teams in this final group except Kuwait, I predict that in 1978 in Buenos Aires it will be the Iranis who will be dancing sheik to sheik . . .

The month of August, the depth of the Australian 'winter' (Sydney average daytime: 68 deg.F.) saw the visit of both Iran and South Korea to play their away matches against Australia. Iran won 1-0 in Melbourne and the Koreans lost 1-2 in Sydney. At the time of writing, Iran were in the box seat, having already collected two points in Hong Kong and a valuable draw in Seoul — and not even conceding a goal so far.

Regrettably, Iran and South Korea had one thing in common: they both outplayed Australia in almost all phases of the game, Iran for the whole of the 90 minutes and the Koreans for about an hour. Then, through a series of circumstances and incidents, they lost their composure and from a safe 1-0 lead crashed to a somewhat unlucky 1-2 defeat. But even then, they looked to be a very smart, skilled team cuts above the Aussies in sheer ability.

What's gone wrong with Australia, proud finalists in 1974 and constantly, almost tediously, predicted to have a 'bright soccer future' . . . a casual, at times polite placebo which doesn't seem to materialise?

Doomed

To start with, the Australian Federation wasted precious time — about two years — in tooling up for the 1979 World Cup bid. The row over the identity of national coach started even before the 1974 finals and the colourful, successful but highly controversial Rale Rasic seemed doomed; his public arguments in the pages of newspapers competely estranged him from the Establishment.

After 1974 his contract wasn't renewed — and many months later the ASF appointed an unknown Englishman, Brian Green, to take charge. With some delay Green arrived, began to settle down, then committed an enormous blunder in his private life that led to his instant resignation and return to Britain. Early 1976, the ASF found a successor in 29-year-old Jimmy Shoulder, another Englishman who, by his own admission, had never coached a senior team in his life and worked mainly as an FA instructor. Now, in these 18 months or so, Jim Shoulder has had the unenviable task of moulding the modest Australian talent into a team.

Against that, you have the well drilled, talented and tactically quite surprisingly mature Iran whose 1-0 win in Melbourne over Australia might have been the true decider in the group. One should have had ample premonitions about Iran's prowess: their 1-1 with Argentina in Madrid earlier in the year, then 0-1 loss to Real Madrid were ominously good results. In fullbacks Khazerani and Nazari, midfielders Parvin and Sadeghi and strikers Johani and Rowshan, they have players who could easily grace the majority of Europe's first division teams. Their ball playing ability is on a par with those of good Continental sides — and cuts above the average English level. Consequently, also well above the Australian standard. They play a composed, almost relaxed football based on precise passing — often one-touch — and tactical discipline.

The South Koreans, despite their unlucky loss in Sydney, also impressed. They were leading until the 62nd minute when a loose ball was converted for the equaliser by 20-year-old Adelaide striker John Kosmina.

Then the Koreans lost their brilliant goalie Byun Ho Yung after a collision and conceded a second goal — which ricocheted off the chest of a surprised Kosmina, after an unfortunate clearance in the goalmouth Faster than the Iranis, the Koreans also have superb skill, but lack stamina. Had they been able to last, I am sure they would have gone away with at least a draw. Their tall stopper Cho Young Jeung, fullback Kim Ho Kon, exciting midfielder Cho Kwang Lae and elegant, effective strikers Cha Buem Keun and Kim Jae Han are all excellent players.

Australia's task, after the defeat against Iran, is now a tough one. The next assignment will be against Kuwait on October 16, in Sydney following which the Socceroos travel to play their four away matches in Seoul, Hong Kong, Kuwait and Tehran — the usual Aussie World Cup marathon.

Unlike many previous Australian national teams in the past, the current one is predominantly built on local talent: seven of the 11 in the current standard team are Australian born. The exceptions are Peter Wilson, Jimmy Rooney, David Harding and Peter Ollerton, all from Britain.

Despite strong demands for changes, Jim Shoulder is likely to stick to his present team, resisting even his minimal temptation for an overhaul. So far he has refused to consider Adrian Alston, originally an Englishman but a naturalised Australian, back here after a spell with Tampa Bay in Florida.

Admittedly, the talent at his disposal is at best mediocre. The majority of Australia's teams are stacked with honest, strong, workmanlike players with flair at a premium. In the fundamentals of the game — ball handling — we always compare unfavourably with Europeans and even Asians; guts rather than guile are the cherished qualities; the good old 'get rid of it' concept has been hammered into the players both here and in Britain by incompetent or charlatan coaches.

It would take years to change all this, through patient, methodical and top class coaching, requiring coaches who themselves believe in the new ways.

During the current World Cup campaign, we cannot hope for any marked improvements. The Iranis have already learned their lessons and, with the aid of enormous government subsidies, seem to be on the right track. Just think of it: the 22 players in the Irani squad have been promised a staggering $5m. to share if they reach Argentina — the weekly output of a smallish oil well. And when you combine natural talent with financial incentive, usually you end up with a winner.

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PERSONAL OPINION by LESLIE VERNON

ON my way out of the Wembley Press Box after the astonishing England v Switzerland match, I bumped into a puzzled Japanese colleague. Mr. Akira Ojima of "Soccer Magazine", Tokyo, is over here to observe English football, and during his stay, has become a firm supporter of Manchester United, and an admirer of our all-action, frantic football.

He just stood there, motionless, staring at the empty pitch, murmuring to himself: "I don't know what to write."

I sympathize with his predicament. How can one reconcile the weekly domestic fare with the continuing story of our manifest ineptitude to cope with foreign opposition?

According to the Swiss journalists present, their side didn't play particularly well, certainly not better than they did against France and Sweden recently, when they were beaten — as usual. But against England, they looked good — especially Barberis and Botteron. But it seems that anyone who has a minimum of intelligence, and the ability to control the ball properly, looks superior in comparison with our overpaid, overrated, overpraised "superstars".

Yet, I believe that Ron Greenwood has a germ of an idea which might eventually work. The principle of "block-selection" is basically right. one only has to mention the Juventus dominated Italy, West Germany in their years of triumphs, when they relied on a Bayern-Moenchengladbach mixture, or Hungary in the wonder-team era, when MTK and Honved provided the base for a properly blended team.

Second wave

Playing Keegan as a central-striker or target man was also correct, with Francis and Hill wide (I hope that we have seen the last of Channon in the national team!), and the Liverpool trio coming forward as a second wave. It didn't work, because the players couldn't adapt to a genuine 4-3-3, in whichever disguise, they are used to playing 4-4-2 for their clubs.

Consequently, the midfielders were looking for additional support, and let themselves be overrun and outnumbered in the first-half, and forgot to utilize the space created by the selfless running of Keegan. Greenwood did point out the tactical difficulties in an aftermatch T.V. interview with Gerry Harrison.

According to my postman, who since he discovered that I have "something to do with football", holds me personally responsible for every English debacle, the explanation was nothing more than "the usual mumbo-jumbo".

For good measure, before he handed me a charming letter printed in red from the Gas Board, asked the poignant question: "Why don't they play someone like Bobby Charlton?" Who, for instance?

The T.V. interview also included this illuminating exchange. Gerry: "Well, hm, hm, what disappointed you most tonight?" Ron: "That we didn't score any goals!" Might be blindingly obvious, but of course, Greenwood, who understands football better than anyone else around, was perfectly right — this is the crux of the matter! We must find a solution to the present goal-famine (two goals in the last six games — one of them a penalty!), and the rest of the problems will solve themselves.

Whether to revert to an old-fashioned British spearhead, with let's say, Mariner and Macdonald in the middle, or persevere with trying to beat more skilful foreign teams at their own game, is the dilemma.

Reverting to our traditional methods might be an effective short-term solution, but knowing Greenwood, I feel that he will stick to his principles and try to play "real" football. The results might not improve, but at least we shall go down with style, not like cowards sheltering behind eight-man defences.

We must to acute

THE allegations of bribery concerning Don Revie, which were recently published in the Daily Mirror, didn't surprise me. Not because I long suspected the former England manager of unscrupulous behaviour, but because these unsavoury machinations have been part and parcel of big-time football since time immemorial.

I do not wish to refer to the allegations in detail, because they might be sub-judice at the time of publication of this copy of "World Soccer", and as I haven't been personally connected with the investigations, I have no way of knowing whether they are true or otherwise.

But, of course, they are probably true, otherwise the Daily Mirror wouldn't have gone to such lengths to ferret out the facts, and wouldn't print them unless their solicitors vetted every instalment very carefully indeed.

Still, "the stories" are weak, there is – in almost vey case – a lack of corroborating evidence. And the "witnesses" or "squealers" (depending on which side of the fence you are on) are all people currently out of football.

They are talking about events which took place many years ago, and they apparently haven't said a word about them up to now. Why? Bob Stokoe, an immensely likeable man, was approached by Revie at Bury in '62, and he reported the matter to his chairman at once. This character, a certain Bill Allan, said to the Daily Mail on September 8, 1977: "I told him the whole idea of such an offer was ridiculous, and I put it completely out of my mind."

Pressures

Allen added: "The matter was never raised at club management level. I put it down to the pressures before the match. I must stress that I have the greatest admiration for Revie as a professional and a gentleman".

What does that mean? That the "gentleman" Revie hasn't done anything out of the ordinary? Several other "gentlemen" have approached and bribed or attempted to bribe other 'gentlemen' before matches?

I do not wish to make excuses for Don Revie. If he did act in a despicable manner and poisoned the game we all love, he deserves all that is coming to him. All I am saying is that these evil practices must be even more widespread than we suspected.

Not only in certain foreign countries, where "points" have been bought and sold as "openly" as blackmarket currency, but in England as well. Co-contributor Brian Glanville has done a courageous, painstaking job in unmasking referee-briber Dezso Solti. Brian also knows that Solti was merely a pawn used by rich Italian clubs.

Expenses

Of course, Dezso, who is an acquaintance of mine (birds of a feather?) has never seen himself in that light. He thought that he was merely acting in the best interests of those who paid his rent and car expenses.

With due respect to Brian, Solti's activities were an open secret on the Continent – not only in Italy, or perhaps least known in Italy. But most people thought that he was a nice enough guy, let him try, no referee would be foolish enough to listen to him, and in any case

England team manager Ron Greenwood explains a point to Terry McDermott (left) and Ian Callaghan.

probably some of the opponents of the Italian teams were doing the same thing!

A complacent, stupid attitude, which smacks of the "honour amongst thieves" ideology or perhaps more understandably, the "don't rock the boat" watchword.

As Stan Anderson, now Doncaster manager, then Newcastle player, was quoted in the "Mirror" vis-a-vis an attempt by Revie to bribe him: "I am not going to confirm or deny it. I want nothing to do with it. I will deny it in court.

When it was put to him that he would be denying something he knew to be true, Anderson said: "I am still in the game . . . Why are you doing it? Why just go for Revie? The game is full of cheats. He was just more successful at it, that's all. I don't want to be branded as a snitch who cannot be trusted. People are panicking. We will be involved whether we like it or not, I have already had mates on from '64 panicking on the phone because they are still in the game."

Carry on boys, the suckers will still come through the turnstiles. . .

find solution goal famine

LAWRIE McMENEMY was a great hit as a speaker at the Rothmans Football Yearbook's annual luncheon. Following his typically Geordie commercial for the "When The Boat Comes In" TV programme, he reverted to less important matters such as the 'freedom of contract' deal for players: "Derek Dougan may want to be the Arthur Scargill of football but I reckon only him and his committee will ever join the strike. This is a selfish and self-centred business. Players only ask what they can get. If my club did not have a scheme for collecting union dues, all my players would be blacklegs!"

He also told us that apart from Alan Ball, not one of his Southampton boys wanted to attend the Union meeting. He had to beg them to go, and eventually a few, who didn't fancy any of the films in London, did turn up.

Although McMenemy said that freedom of contract must come, and it might even hurt the players, I feel that the argument is a false one. He agrees that most of the present-day players are unwilling to work.

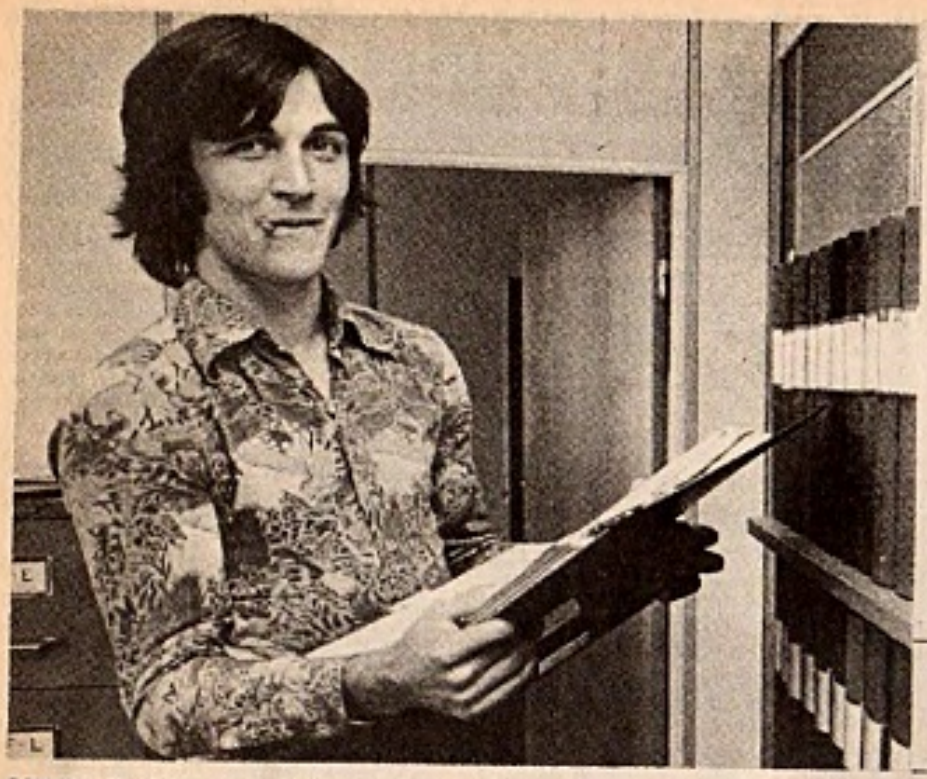
'Most present-day players unwilling to work'

"If a footballer wants to pass a ball from here to that lamp-post and he succeeds eight times out of ten, he should come back in the afternoon to make sure that he can do it ten times out of ten!"

This is what John Bond had to say on the subject after his club Norwich drew (!) with Q.P.R.: "When my lot came in at half-time I gave them a fearful roasting, but did it make any difference? They were even worse. I might as well have kept my mouth shut. They have no pride in what they're doing. They don't learn a thing. You spend all the week teaching them things in training, but you might as well run round the track on your own for an hour and then go off home."

Yet, the clubs will go on paying their wages, because they represent their "assets". That is why the "every other worker is free to choose his employer" premise might be right in law, but wrong in principle.

Other "workers" don't expect to collect £20,000, as one well-known Scottish international did recently, when they join another firm, they are not provided with luxury accommodations, and on retirement they do not collect tax-free benefits. One might say that all these juicy extras only apply to the star-players. How about the "real" workers in the Third and Fourth Divisions? Well, the stars will take an ever bigger slice of the cake under the proposed system, and the serfs will be even more exploited. Three cheers for industrial democracy in football. . . .



Ralf Edstrom — starting work on his new job with the ICA-EOL office in Gothenburg where he is working part-time — his first "real" job ever besides playing football.

PART-TIM
ENJOY TH

DURING the winter months the Swedes watch an English league match 'live' on television on Saturday afternoons.

There is no conflict with their own league, which, since 1959 has run from spring to autumn, and the televised games appear during the close season. What I was interested to see on a recent visit to Sweden was whether the Swedes had picked up any of the bad professional habits they must have seen on the box.

To base a judgment on one match would be unwise. But from what I saw in the league match between IFK Göteborg and Djurgarden and from what I was told, it seems that the Swedish part-timers still manage to enjoy their football.

That's no small achievement in a soccer world which is becoming increasinly tainted by the influence of big money. In neighbouring Denmark it seems that amateur soccer is finally being overtaken by semi-professionalism, and IFK Göteborg provide a couple of examples of how ever Swedish soccer is swinging into the era of cash-consciousness.

IFK have won the championship eight times, which puts them behind Orgryte, Norrköping and Malmö in the all-time list and level with Djurgarden. Neither club has ever won the Cup, though that isn't so surprising, for it's only since 1969 that a knock-out tournament has been serious organist. From 1953 to 1967 there was nothing at all.

Thus both these clubs proved an ideal pairing. Djurgarden, once the most popular of clubs fallen on hard times, and IFK, an ambitious once-great club now promising better things after some lean years.

IFK last won the championship in 1969 and were almost immediately relegated. They returned to the first division only 18 months ago, yet now claim to be among the best-supported clubs in the league. The attendance against Djurgarden was 22,000 — good for Sweden, but poor for IFK.

In a league where average crowds are around the 8-10,000 mark, IFK regularly count on 25,000 or more in the impressive 54,000-capacity Ullevi stadium, which was built for the 1958 World Cup. The reason the crowd was down for the visit of Djurgarden was that the visitors were deep in relegation trouble and not much of an attraction. Indeed the plight of Stockholm soccer — which is where Djurgarden are based — is indeed a sad one.

At the time of this game the struggle to escape the two relegation places was between the three Stockholm first division clubs — Derby, Djurgarden and AIK. In fact, apart from AIK winning the Cup last year, you have to go back to 1966(!) to find a Stockholm team winning a major honour — and that was when Djurgarden last won the league.

Crowds in Stockholm now are down around the 6,000 mark and, having seen Djurgarden, I'm not all that surprised. The power in soccer in Sweden lies in the provinces — and IFK, it would seem, have chances of winning one of the major prizes against in a year or two.

But my reasoning is based not on the mere fact that Stockholm is the soft centre of Swedish football, but on what IFK have going for them.

First, they are a club lately come into a wealthy inheritance thanks to the sponsorship of ICA, one of Sweden's major shopping chains. It was thanks to ICA that IFK (Sorry about all the initials) were able, a few months ago, to buy back Ralf Edström from PSV Eindhoven. Edström was only 24, a 1974 World Cup star, with plenty more years at the top if he had wanted. But first Edström's physique had, in the past two years, proved too flimsy for the slings and arrows of full-time professional soccer, and then he seemed afflicted by a lack of ambition.

When IFK went to PSV, with an offer of roughly £80,000, and a further large sum for the player PLUS the offer of a job with their sponsors, ICA, everyone was happy to agree terms. Not that Edström's job gets in his way very much during the season, but it provides him with long-term security while he goes on enjoying his football and becomes, once again, everybody's hero.

It had been the same, the year before, for Bjorn Nordqvist. The 33-year-old central defender who recently topped 100 caps for his country, joined IFK — also from PSV — thanks to the tempting offer of a job with the car firm Volvo. Before going to Holland he had played for Norrköping. Now he's trying to shore-up the leaky IFK defence and playing at the kind of pace which makes him look good for years to come!

Edström, Nordqvist . . . who else? Would you believe it, Ove Kindvall. The man who led Feyenoord to the 1970 World and European club trophies is now 34, but still has the skill and the class to make some of Sweden's younger players look definitely second rate. Like Nordqvist, his early career was with Norrköping before he went full-time professional and, again like Nordqvist, he isn't prepared to do a lot of running around now.

At IFK he plays as outside right, demanding passes to his feet and escaping his markers with those twinkling feet before laying the ball off for Edström or strong midfielder Reine Almqvist. Kindvall is sharp as ever in the penalty box, though with defensive tactics seeping into Sweden too, there's no danger of him emulating his feat of 1966, when he was the country's top scorer with 20 goals.

Almqvist, incidentally, was the country's top scorer in 1969, when IFK won the title. He scored 16 goals then, but despite the presence of all these players, IFK haven't found goals easy to come by this summer. In 20 games they have scored 36 which isn't bad, but isn't as good as they need.

Still, that could change soon. While I was in Gothenburg IFK announced that they had bought back Torbjorn Nilsson from PSV.

edge reports on a trip to Sweden

Nilsson, only 22, went to Holland only nine months ago for £100,000. It was a sad loss for Sweden, since Nilsson is rated one of their best forwards for many years. But he found it hard to settle in Holland, struggled with the language and became increasingly homesick, particularly after Edström and Peter Dahlqvist (now with second division Orgryte) returned home.

Nilsson had cost IFK a fee of just half the amount paid by PSV and his signing is another example of the way IFK, with their sponsorship and their large crowds, are cashing in on the wind of change. Not that all this success off the field has yet been translated onto the pitch.

After the match with Djurgarden which I saw, IFK were ninth out of 14 clubs, with 20 points from 20 games — five points clear of Djurgarden who looked to be heading for the drop. Edström hasn't found the way to goal easy on his return. Of his four goals, three came in the 6-3 away win over AIK in Stockholm, and for the rest of the time IFK have had to rely on Almqvist — who with 10 is second overall to Landskrona's Mats Aronsson — and Jan Nilsson, who has scored seven. Glenn Holm has five goals, and

ERS CAN STILL EIR FOOTBALL

Kindvall and Olle Nordon — another ex-Norrköping international — each four.

It's a far cry from the days of 1925 and the first league championship when IFK's Filip Johansson scored a record 39 goals in a season. Other IFK men with the honour of being top scorer include Leif Larsson (19 goals in 1944) and Bertil Johansson (27 in 1958 and 20 in 1961). Then there was also a certain Gunnar Gren, who scored 18 in 1947 before going to Italy to earn world-wide fame as a member of the Grenoli inside forward trio — Gren, Gunnar Nordahl and Nils Liedholm — with Milan.

Gren, incidentally was the first Swedish player of the year in 1946, and is still in evidence at IFK matches. He runs the "Gunnar Gren Souvenir Shop" down in one of the corners of the Ullevi stadium . . .

Djurgarden, in contrast to IFK, are worse off in terms of sponsorship, home crowds and players. In Vito Knezevic and Anders Grönhagen they have two of Sweden's most promising young forwards, but most of the responsibility rests on the shoulders of skipper and sweeper Sven Lindman. Now 35, and fighting off the effects of a couple of cartilage operations, his intelligence and organising ability at the back remain the pillars on which Djurgarden hope to build a late climb to safety.

Lindman played 18 times for Sweden in full internationals between 1967 and 1971, with the high point being a recall to join the 1974 World Cup squad. He too tried his luck as a full-time professional, with Rapid Vienna in 1968-69, but though Rapid won the Cup he wasn't happy earning his money and playing his football in a league where top-class football and regular big crowds are now the stuff of dreams and memories.

But as well as a good defence, it's goals Djurgarden need — and a regular scorer they've been missing for a long time. It's now 15 years since Leif Skiöld became the first and last Djurgarden player to top the national scoring lists with 21 goals.

And so, back to today and the Ullevi stadium and a meeting between two contrasting clubs: IFK rebuilding, Djurgarden sliding. Teams.

IFK: Nordström (Olausson 78) — Holmgren, Conny Carlsson, Nordqvist, Bo Andersson — Nordin, Jerry Karlsson, Almqvist — Kindvall (Holm 36), Edström, Jan Nilsson. Coach: Hasse Carlsson.

Djurgarden: Alkeby — Hakan Stenbäck, Disberg, Lindman, Davidsson — Jakobsson, Lars Stenbäck, Samuelsson, Kjell Karlsson (Lindvall 65) — Grönhagen, Berggren. Coach: Bengt Persson.

Anyone used to West European leagues has an immediate adjustment to make in Sweden, for teams use a standard numbering system, with their players keeping one number from match to match. A second difference was the fact that both teams emerged half an hour before the kick-off for their warm-up period.

While Djurgarden were content to kick a few footballs around, Hasse Carlsson put IFK through a full training routine including sprints and team exercises. Some of the players looked whacked before the match had even begun!

It took seven minutes for Edström to show his class, turning quickly to send a beautiful pass through the Djurgarden defence. Jan Nilsson went clear away, but wastefully shot wide.

Justified

Lindman had slowed to walking pace, appealing for offside. I don't think he was justified on this occasion, referee Jan-Ingmar Svensson was correct to let play continue. However, as the match went on, it became more and more plain that sure and competent as the referee was, his linesmen were absolutely appalling!

Nilsson had one goal disallowed after 12 mintues for offside and after 25 minutes IFK could have opened the score. Nordqvist clipped the ball up to Edström backheeled beautifully through the defence to put Kindvall away. Kindvall glanced at the linesman, who kept his flag down, then took two steps towards goal, whereupon the linesman put his flag up! Kindvall, by now thoroughly confused, then had the ball snatched off his toes by goalkeeper Björn Alkeby.

Slow flagging upset IFK a few minutes later. Nilsson was standing offside when Reine Almqvist played the ball towards him, but the linesman didn't flag until *after* a defender had tried to intercept and toe-ended the ball on into Nilsson's path. If the offside hadn't been given when Almqvist played the ball, it was too late after the defender touched it on to Nilsson. Nevertheless the referee awarded a free kick to Djurgarden — fortuitously.

All that aggravation would long since have reduced league teams in England, Spain and Italy to gibbering, argumentative wrecks. Instead the Swedes got on coolly with the game. The level of sportsmanship was far higher than in full-time professional leagues — though one or two of the displays of fairmindedness would have staggered more than a few managers in other countries.

For instance . . . in the 17th minute, Tommy Davidsson shovelled Edström over the byline and into touch. Edström, having taken a blow on the shin, rolled down his sock and took off his shin pad to inspect the damage. As IFK lined up the free kick, so Davidsson ran out of his defensive position to go to Edström, apologise, check that no lasting harm had been done and have a general chat. All the while oblivious to the state of the defence he had left behind!

Edström, inevitably, was the scorer of the first goal after an evenly-balanced first 35 minutes. Taking a neat pass from Kindvall with his back to goal some 40 yards out, he turned on a sixpence, accelerated smoothly between the central defenders, ran on 10 yards, and beat Alkeby with a well-timed drive from the edge of the penalty box. One-nil to IFK.

That was when I was struck by probably the only item 'lifted' from English televised soccer — the fans began to sing, in English, "When the Saints go marching in . . ."

The fact IFK are nicknamed the Blue-white, or the Angels, didn't get into the chant. But still, Saints or angels, I suppose it's much of a muchness!

Edström's contribution wasn't limited only to attack. Several times he turned up in his own penalty box, using his height to clear corners and free kicks, and saving his jittery captain, Jan Nordström, a goalkeeper who seemed prone to punch everything in sight.

With three minutes gone in the second half, IFK were 2-0 ahead. Kjell Samuelsson sent Bo Andersson flying with a nonsensical push in the back, and Almqvist banged in the penalty.

World Cup finalists Brazil— They're not satisfied

AS World Cup time approaches, Brazil always seem to be the "teams to beat", specially when the World Cup finals are held on South American soil as will be the case next year.

Brazil, world champions in 1958, 1962 and 1970, duly qualified for next year's finals in Argentina by eliminating Colombia and Paraguay in their preliminary group and then winning the South American final group (in Cali) against the other group winners Peru and Bolivia with a total record of four wins and two draws. Nobody expected them to do any less than qualify, but many, especially in Brazil, expected them to do a lot better.

The very first match — a 0-0 draw in Colombia — produced cold feet among Brazilian soccer officials and virtually ended the 22-match reign of national team coach Osvaldo Brandao. Claudio Coutinho took them the rest of the way and through six home internationals against European sides, but few Brazilians were happy about the team and there is again talk that when the squad is reassembled — probably not until early next year — there will be changes and Coutinho will not be in charge.

Meahwhile a list of 72 players has been named, including veteran international goalkeeper Manga, who is 40, and the 19-year-old new Santos star forward Jauri, who will be under observation, but the Brazilian Sports Confederation's idea of banning their transfer to foreign clubs (except of course defender Luiz Pereira who is already with Atletico Madrid) is not feasable under Brazilian law.

After their 0-0 start in Colombia, Brazil went on to win their group by two points, but had to fight in both games against Paraguay as commented in *WORLD SOCCER* at the time. And they had no easy passage against Peru either — an ageing, slow team which gave them every chance to shine because they did not mark closely.

As commented on in last month's *WORLD SOCCER*, the quality of soccer played in the final round in Cali was poor and the skill of Rivelino, Zico (who did not play against Peru) and Dirceu did not make up for the lack of ideas from the rest of the Brazilian team. But to put Brazil into perspective, one would have to take into account their recent six home international games against European teams. These showed:

Brazil relies heavily on the leadership and organising of half Rivelino — a veteran of two World Cups and over 100 internationals (though not all full internationals) — and the team does not function the same without him. Pitinho, who replaced him at times, is nowhere near.

Brazil has yet to find a safe defence under pressure. Luiz Pereira, one of the stars of the last World Cup, was slow, overweight and out of form in the games he played in South America and after the last qualifying game against Bolivia he said he would not play for Brazil again because "it was not worth coming such a long way to get continually criticized".

Marco Antonio, another 1974 World Cup player, played only twice and did not find his form. Edinho's mistakes almost cost Brazil the match against Peru, but Rodrigues Neto is a newcomer, strong in attack, who should do well.

Brazil still do not like tight marking although against poor rivals like Bolivia they had not trouble in escaping their close markers. Leading socrers Zico and Roberto do not fit in with coach Coutinho's style. Their tendency to hold on to the ball too long slows down play. Without them Brazil's attack rotates better, but its goal potential is reduced.

Zico — top scorer for Brazil in their World Cup matches . . .

Coutinho, an enthusiastic reader of foreign publications on the latest soccer tactics, has not managed to get the team to play as he wants them to and Brazil's best moments came when the players forgot about rigid schemes and pushed ahead in disorganised fashion — but this was not good enough against compact European defences such as those of West Germany, England and Yugoslavia against whom they could not score.

Brazil's play was requently too slow (also as a result of what is mentioned above) and it lacked the creativity and imagination of former Brazilian teams.

Brazil have remained unbeaten in these 12 games — six World Cup qualifying and six against European teams — but against World Cup holders West Germany they only equalised through a wonder goal from Rivelino a few minutes before the end, while Yugoslavia had a possible winner anulled — a dubious offside decision — in their 0-0 draw.

Nevertheless, Brazil continue to show that they are hard to beat. Indeed, they have not lost since the 1975 South American Championship semi finals when Peru beat what, for various reasons, was not a full strength Brazilian national team (but a selection from several states) by 3-1. Last year Brazil went unbeaten through 11 matches (won 10, drew one) and this year they have so far won seven and drawn six of their 13 games. No wonder the Brazilians aren't satisfied.

The Brazilian Sports Confederation, which says participation in the World Cup will cost them at least 3,700,000 dollars, announced that the Brazilian team will go on tour before the World Cup finals, starting on April 1 with a match against France (in Paris) and followed by matches against West Germany, Atletico Madrid and several Arabian teams.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

South American group 1: **Feb. 20 v Colombia (1) 0-0; Mar. 9 v Colombia (h) won 6-0; Mar. 13 v Paraguay (a) won 1-0; Mar. 20 v Paraguay (h) 1-1 (Brazil 6 pts, Paraguay 4, Colombia 2).** ***South American final group:*** **July 10 v Peru won 1-0; July 14 v Bolivia 8-0 (Brazil 4 pts, Peru 2, Bolivia 0 — in Cali, Colombia).** ***Leading scorers:*** **Zico 5, Roberto 4, Gil 2.**

Report fro

ROUGH PLAY FROM BOCA

BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) and cup holders Cruzeiro (Brazil) qualified, not unexpectedly, for the final of the Libertadores Cup (the South American club championship) by winning semi final groups 1 and 2 respectively, but Portuguesa — the first Venezuelan club ever to reach the semi finals — did cause surprises in group 2 and the forecast that rough play would feature group 1 proved correct.

How could it be otherwise with Juan Carlos Lorenzo coaching Boca Juniors and Carlos Bilardo, a member of that "infamous" Estudiantes de La Plata team which won the Cup three years running from 1968 to 1970, in charge or Deportivo Cali (Colombia) . . . and it all ended in a personal feud.

Another feature in group 1 was the completely negative play which resulted in few goals — only nine were scored in six games. Boca Juniors, who had gone through six first round group games without letting through a goal, took the series to eight with a couple of 1-0 victories over Paraguay's Libertad, before Argentine forward N. Scotto opened the score for Cali against them in the next game — by which time the Boca defence had gone through 745 minutes of cup play without a goal against.

As it is, Boca Juniors are still unbeaten after 10 games in this season's Libertadores Cup with a record of six wins and four draws and a low 9-2 goals record against not always easy opposition. But the club which has reached the final once before, losing to Santos (Brazil) in 1963 when they became the first Argentine side to place real importance on the competition, again gave top priority to the Cup this year while frequently playing reserves in league matches.

Defence

The first Boca-Libertad match was one of the worst spectacles seen on a soccer field in Buenos Aires for a long time . . . and that's saying something. Boca Juniors, a team never used to all out attack but tight defence, rough spoiling tactics and counter attacking, were faced by a Paraguayan team intent on defence, tight marking and gaining a draw by spoiling Boca's few attempts at soccer when they were forced to play in attack (which they are not used to and do badly).

The result was a "game" continually held up by fouls and players kicking each other, a lenient referee (Brazil's Arphi Filho) who waited until the second half to send players off when Benitez (L), Spinola (L) and Ribolzi (B) got marching orders . . . and Libertad almost got that point as Boca were getting more nervous all the time. Usually reliable Mouzo even missed a penalty 17 minutes from time and there were only 10 minutes to go when substitute Pavon scored three minutes after coming on.

The return match in Asunción also produced little soccer with Libertad forced to attack and continually falling into Boca's offside trap and a lot of aimless midfield action until Zanabria scored Boca's goal again 10 minutes from the end . . . but at least the players did kick the ball a bit more and each other less. This was followed by a 0-0 draw — nil in quality also — between Cali and Libertad (in Cali) which eliminated Libertad and favoured Boca because the Colombian side could not really afford to drop a home point.

Boca Juniors conceeded their first goal in the tournament in the next match in Cali when international goalkeeper Gatti came out of his goal at the wrong moment and Scotta headed the ball over him. Cali hardly deserved the lead in another poor and rough match which saw several players booked and defender Sá scoring the equaliser with a surprise long shot just before half-time. But Boca coach Lorenzo blamed it on the hostile atmosphere with which Cali coach Bilardo surrounded the match.

Tipped

Lorenzo accused Bilardo of delaying the plane which took the Boca team to Cali (apparently police did that when they detained part of the crew for smuggling, but perhaps Lorenzo thought Bilardo planted the stuff on them and tipped off the police); of puncturing the tires of the bus which took the Boca party to the hotel; of sending women to Boca's hotel where they stripped in front of the players to provoke them and having the TV tape of the match stolen so that it could not be shown in Buenos Aires.

Brazilian referee Favili Netto went off the field under police escort to protect him from protesting officials and missiles thrown by fans because he had ended the match three minutes early.

Cali's 2-1 defeat against Libertad in the next match (in Asunción) automatically put Boca Juniors into the final and made the pending Boca Cali match unimportant, but interest was kept alive by the hostility and the personal feud between the two coaches.

On arrival in Buenos Aires, Bilardo (naturally denying all the alegations) said he was grieved that Lorenzo should carry on a personal vendetta against him, but it did not surprise him coming from a man who was also making things difficult for his country's national coach, Menotti. He was even more sorry, as an Argentine himself, that Lorenzo's attitude may not make things easier for some 200 Argentine players and coaches in Colombian soccer . . . and he was surprised at a Buenos Aires newspaper report that Cali had better lose, otherwise Boca fans would burn down Bilardo's furniture store and factory in Buenos Aires. (The paper gave the addresses).

As it was, Cali almost ended Boca's unbeaten record in the competition (in spite of having a man sent off shortly before half time) when Benitez opened the score for the Colombian team 22 minutes before time and Mouzo only equalised from a rather doubtful penalty four minutes later. But neither team deserved to win this match which was no better than the poor quality served up in this group all along — even with the tension off.

In semi final group 2 the writing was on the wall for Brazilian champions Internacional when cup holders Cruzeiro, from Belo Horizonte (Brazil), beat them 1-0 on their own ground in Porto Alegre. Jonozinho scored the only goal halfway through the second half in a match in which his team was more dangerous in front of goal with fewer chances as Internacional coach Carlos Castilho who had been Brazil's World Cup goalkeeper in 1954.

Control

A week later Internacional's chances virtually went altogether when they were easily beaten by Portuguesa in Venezuela (3-0) in the major upset of the tournament. Portuguesa's Moss, Echenausi and Jairzinho (the former Brazilian World Cup star playing his first full 90 minutes for the Venezuelan champions since an injury sustained right after being transferred to them) gave the winners midfield control and the ease with which they beat the Brazilian defence was surprising. It was also Portuguesa's fifth straight victory in the tournament . . . and their last.

In the next match Portuguesa went down 4-0 at home to Cruzeiro which left the latter virtually qualified for the final again after winning all their three games. (As holders they received a bye into the semi finals). Cruzeiro overcame Portuguesa with superior speed, technique and experience. Then they dropped their only point at home to Internacional whom they outplayed but were stopped from beating mainly by the latter's veteran goalkeeper Manga. But three days later Internacional beat Portuguesa 2-1 at home to make Cruzeiro's final place secure. Portuguesa fought for the points all the way and were even on top at times.

The two-legged final was scheduled for September 6 in Buenos Aires and September 11 in Belo Horizonte with a third match, if necessary, taking place in Montevideo two days later.

(● *Full results and tables — see CLASSIFIED RESULTS*)

ERIC WEIL

HUGE CRO GALORE IN

by Arthur Rotmil

HUGE CROWDS . . . plenty of goals . . . the favourites toppled every other week and thus constant changes in leadership — that was the perhaps most exciting start ever to the Bundesliga programme. The top Division is now so full of good teams, that any side can beat even the highest rated opponents. It appears that the title race will be the closest fought out for years and there are no clear cut favourites.

After the first month of the championship campaign the German fans are asking: Is this going to be the year of the Müllers? Incredibly, after four rounds, three players all named Müller headed the goalscorers' list! Gerd Müller (Bayern Munich), Dieter Müller (Cologne) and Hans Müller (VfB Stuttgart).

The inimitable Gerd reached another fabulous milestone of his illustrious career. In the cup tie against Eintracht Trier he scored his 600th goal in competitive football. This amazing total was made up as follows:

Bundesliga	339
Regional League South	35
Bundesliga Promotion Pool	4
DFB Cup	75
League Cup	12
National team	68
European Cup	36
Cup Winners Cup	20
Fairs Cup	7
Super Cup	3
World championship for clubs	1
Total	600

And remember that his goals in the multitide of friendly matches which Bayern play every year are not included in this summary!

One scoring record which his namesake Dieter has just taken from him was established in Cologne's game against Werder Bremen. Dieter Müller hit six goals in the 7-2 win for the best individual strike in the Bundesliga. Incidentally, Gerd Müller has scored five goals in a match on no fewer than four occasions, but never six!

But another Müller is now widely regarded as the greatest talent and the coming star of German football: Hans, only just turned 20, a midfield player with promoted VfB Stuttgart who has already been picked three times for the national B-team on its Central American tour in June. Experts claim that he could well develop into another Overath or Netzer. At the moment, however, Hans is in the Bundeswehr doing his military service!

Astonishing

New records are also being set by that redoubtable goalkeeper of the national team and Bayern Munich, Sepp Maier. The amiable Bavarian has extended his astonishing run of having played in every *Bundesliga* match without a break since August 20, 1966! This must be something of a world record not to have missed a championship game for over eleven years! Pity the poor reserve 'keeper at Bayern, who has had to sit on the bench during more than 380 games!

Maier has now also become the player with the most *Bundesliga* appearances, having bettered Wolfgang Overath's mark of 409 matches. Since Germany's most capped goalkeeper won, as a 19-year-old, the Amateur "Länder-Pokal" with Bayern Munich in 1963, he collected in 14 years 16 titles and trophies!

To cap his splendid achievements, Maier has also been elected West Germany's "Footballer of the Year", for the second time after 1975.

And he is the only custodian to have won this coveted award twice. The 33-year-old star received 122 out of a total of 525 votes given by the German sports writers at the start of this season. Only four votes less had been registered for the new centre forward of the national side Klaus Fischer (Schalke).

Franz Beckenbauer, who was "Footballer of the Year" four times, in 1966, 1968, 1974 and 1976, had to be content with fifth place. The full result: 1. Sepp Maier (Bayern) — 122 votes; Klaus Fischer (Schalke) — 118; Berti Vogts (Borussia Mönchengladbach) — 79; Manfred Kaltz (Hamburger SV) — 47; Franz Beckenbauer (Bayern, now Cosmos) — 42; Rainer Bonhof (Borussia Mönchengladbach) — 20.

Record

The Bundesliga matches have been drawing tremendous crowds. In a mid-week round a total of 335,000 fans watched eight games (one was postponed), for the highest ever average of 42,000 per match. This beat the previous

FIXTURES

1977/78	Hertha	Bochum	Braunschw.	Bremen	Dortmund	Duisburg	Düsseldorf	Frankfurt	Hamburg	St. Pauli	Kaisersl.	Köln	M'gladbach	Bayern M.	1860	Saarbrücken	Schalke	Stuttgart
Hertha BSC Berlin		7.1.	5.11.	22.10.	3:1	27.8.	1.10.	3.9.	29.4.	18.2.	4.2.	4.3.	17.12	18.3.	21.1.	8.4.	26.11.	17.9.
VfL Bochum	17.8.		11.2.	14.1.	26.11.	31.8.	29.4.	24.9.	1.4.	8.4.	12.10.	17.12.	0:0	28.1.	10.9.	25.2.	11.3.	29.10.
Braunschweig	1.4.	17.9.		3.9.	11.3.	12.11.	27.8.	3.12.	12.10.	7.1.	10.12.	21.1.	29.10.	4.3.	22.4.	24.9.	25.2.	13.8.
Werder Bremen	11.3.	27.8.	28.1.		25.2.	29.10.	13.8.	12.11.	24.9.	10.12.	22.4.	7.1.	12.10.	31.8.	1.4.	9.9.	11.2.	3.12.
Bor. Dortmund	10.12.	22.4.	22.10.	1.10.		13.8.	17.9.	27.8.	12.11.	4.2.	21.1.	18.2.	3.12.	4.3.	7.1.	18.3.	5.11.	3.9.
MSV Duisburg	14.1.	21.1.	8.4.	18.3.	17.12.		4.3.	4.2.	5:2	1.10.	16.9.	22.10.	17.8.	5.11.	3.9.	26.11.	29.4.	18.2.
Fort. Düsseldorf	25.2.	3.12.	14.1.	17.12.	11.2.	12.10.		29.10.	10.9.	22.4.	1.4.	5:1	24.9.	17.8.	11.3.	31.8.	28.1.	12.11.
Eintr. Frankfurt	28.1.	18.2.	29.4.	8.4.	14.1.	10.9.	18.3.		17.8.	22.10.	1.10.	5.11.	31.8.	26.11.	11.2.	4:0	17.12.	4.3.
Hamburger SV	3.12.	5.11.	4.3.	18.2.	8.4.	10.12.	4.2.	7.1.		3.9.	27.8.	17.9.	22.4.	1.10.	13.8.	22.10.	18.3.	21.1.
FC St. Pauli	24.9.	12.11.	17.8.	3:1	10.9.	25.2.	26.11.	11.3.	28.1.		29.10.	29.4.	11.2.	17.12.	12.10.	14.1.	31.8.	1.4.
Kaiserslautern	10.9.	4.3.	2:1	26.11.	31.8.	11.2.	5.11.	25.2.	14.1.	18.3.		8.4.	28.1.	29.4.	24.9.	17.12.	17.8.	22.10.
1. FC Köln	12.10.	13.8.	31.8.	17.8.	24.9.	11.3.	10.12.	1.4.	11.2.	3.12.	12.11.		25.2.	14.1.	29.10.	28.1.	10.9.	22.4.
Bor. M'gladbach	13.8.	10.12.	18.3.	4.3.	29.4.	7.1.	18.2.	21.1.	26.11.	17.9.	3.9.	1.10.		22.10.	27.8.	5.11.	8.4.	4.2.
Bayern München	29.10.	3.9.	10.9.	21.1.	12.10.	1.4.	7.1.	22.4.	25.2.	13.8.	3.12.	27.8.	11.3.		12.11.	11.2.	24.9.	10.12.
1860 München	31.8.	4.2.	26.11.	5.11.	17.8.	28.1.	22.10.	17.9.	17.12.	4.3.	18.2.	18.3.	14.1.	8.4.		29.4.	0:0	1.10.
1. FC Saarbrücken	12.11.	1.10.	18.2.	4.2.	29.10.	22.4.	21.1.	10.12.	11.3.	27.8.	13.8.	3.9.	1.4.	17.9.	3.12.		12.10.	7.1.
FC Schalke 04	22.4.	22.10.	1.10.	17.9.	1.4.	3.12.	3.9.	13.8.	29.10.	21.1.	7.1.	4.2.	12.11.	18.2.	10.12.	4.3.		27.8.
VfB Stuttgart	11.2.	18.3.	17.12.	29.4.	28.1.	23.9.	8.4.	12.10.	31.8.	5.11.	11.3.	26.11.	10.9.	3:3	25.2.	17.8.	14.1.	

WDS AND GOALS N BUNDESLIGA

record established on the opening day of the 1965-66 season, when 370,000 spectators produced an average for the nine games of 41,111 per match. The grand total after five rounds reached 1,517,000 fans, although two matches are still outstanding.

The high standard of skill in what is widely accepted as the best League in the world and the levelling up of the teams involved, have been the main factors in this enormous upsurge of interest. Rarely, if ever, did the 18 clubs boast such a wealth of talent in their ranks as now. In the First *Bundesliga* there are 87 internationals playing, not all of them Germans, of course.

The biggest collection of fully capped players boast Hamburger SV with ten, of whom eight are Germans, plus Keegan and Buljan (Yugoslav).

Next come Borussia Mönchengladbach and Schalke with nine each, followed by Cologne and Bayern Munich, each with eight internationals. In the total are included no fewer than 24 foreign capped men. But in the Second Bundesliga too, there are twelve full internationals.

After a terrible start — 1-5 defeat at Fortuna Düsseldorf — Cologne shot to the top of the *Bundesliga* having slammed Eintracht Brunswick 6-0, Werder Bremen 7-2 and won at Bayern 3-0. But just as everyone began to lavish extensive praise on Hennes Weisweiler's outfit and elevated them to the rank of favourites, the Rhinelanders crashed to modest Saarbrücken by 0-1, and lost the lead.

Consistent

Schalke, who together with MSV Duisburg were the only unbeaten club after six matches, appeared to be more consistent, but whether they can continue so steadily is at this stage at least debatable. The "Knappen" as they are called, have a recent history of internal turmoil and one or two setbacks may well upset them again.

Hamburger SV recovered also from their traumatic start — having lost 2-5 at Duisburg — but they lost their first ever *Bundesliga* local derby against the newly promoted St. Pauli by 0-2 at their own Volksparkstadion. Their neighbours frantically looking at new players, notably in Britain, are said to be interested in Brighton's Young England striker Peter Ward. Their earlier negotiations with Scotland's Willie Pettigrew ended in a fiasco, as I reported in last month's issue of WORLD SOCCER.

Now St. Pauli seem determined to get a British star — perhaps as a counter attraction to Kevin Keegan in the same city of course. Keegan has incidentally been having a lean time there — just one goal in six League games. He was even quoted in the *Bild am Sonntag* paper as saying that he was so disenchanted with his form that if it doesn't get any better he would return to England. But next day the former Liverpool forward denied having made such a statement and was reported as wanting to sue the *Bild am Sonntag* for false representation!

Eintracht Frankfurt are another club strongly fancied for honours, especially after their marvellous run of 22 matches without defeat which spilled over from last season, but was finally ended by Schalke who won 3-2. Eintracht's manager, the former famous Hungarian centre back Gyula Lorant claims that his captain, the no less redoubtable Jürgen Grabowski, is in the form of his life — "and he is now better than either Keegan, or even Johan Cruyff" added Frankfurt's chief.

Replace

Bayern Munich and Borussia Mönchengladbach, the "Big Two", who have dominated the domestic scene in the last eight years, are having a difficult time, for the competition has never been greater. Bayern cannot replace Beckenbauer, while Borussia are still worried that Jupp Heynckes their most prolific scorer, may never regain full fitness. After a bright start he was once again sidelined with his troublesome knee injury. Both clubs are engaged in European competitions in which they must do well to balance their books.

Victory against Finland

The national team opened the current season, leading up to the World Cup finals, with a 1-0 away win over Finland, thanks to a goal by Fischer. Once again it was demonstrated that now even the so called Cinderella teams of Europe cannot be taken lightly. England couldn't break down the part-timers of Switzerland at Wembley — the Germans had their hands full with the semi-amateurs from Scandinavia, albeit not on their ground but in Helsinki. Still the victory was welcomed as another stage in the preparations of manager Helmut Schön.

Before going to Argentina, the Germans will tackle Italy (h), Switzerland (h), Wales (h), England (h), Russia (h), Brazil (h) and Sweden (a). Most interesting is the arrangement whereby the home matches will be staged in different cities namely in that order: Berlin, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Munich, Frankfurt and Hamburg. Perhaps England should try a similar tour of venues, until it finds the one in which the national side plays best — or at least better than recently at Wembley!

West German players training on the beach in Rio de Janeiro before their summer tour match against Brazil. Picture by Peter Robinson.

KEIR RADNEDGE tal

I FINALLY tracked down Miljan Miljanic two days after the announcement that he and Real Madrid had parted company.

Most managers might have reacted bitterly, their pride wounded by such an abrupt separatio after the first league match — and defeat — of the season.

Not the 47-year-old Yugoslav.

"I suppose you want to talk about Madrid and me?" he said after I found him, at last, in his Madrid apartment. "Well, it's true that I've left the club.

"But I have no problem with Madrid. What has happened is that both the club and I have problems of our own and we agreed that this would be the best solution for both of us. I am happy with the way everything has turned out and so are Madrid.

"I must say that the club have always treated me very well."

Miljanic took over Madrid after the 1974 World Cup, having spent the previous 29 years first as player then coach with Red Star Belgrade.

He went on: "The problem for Madrid is that the president, Senor Bernabeu, has recently been taken seriously ill. He had a major operation and everyone is very worried."

In that case wouldn't it have been better for Miljanic to stay, maintain stability in the club? On the face of it, yes. But Miljanic has a family problem of his own.

"My father is very ill, too, in Belgrade," he told me. "Tomorrow I am going back to Yugoslavia to be with him."

That was all. The lantern-jawed Yugoslav denied outright that his departure had anything to do with pressure from the fans or the senior players.

He felt that despite the fact Madrid are, this season, missing from Europe for the first time, he had nothing to be ashamed of.

"In my three years I won the league and the Cup and the league again. I am more than content with that — so are the directors. That is all that matters. The fans didn't enter into it."

So now what?

"In the meantime Luis Molowny, a great player, a good friend and a marvellous character, has taken over as trainer. I think he will stay in the

CRUYFF

JOHAN CRUYFF to join New York Cosmos at the end of the season – that was the startling prediction which shook Barcelona fans.

It came from former international referee Pedro Escartin, while on a lecture tour in South America, but his words soon found their way back to the Catalan capital where the Dutch star had enough problems to contend with already.

On top of the thigh injury which he suffered in the 6-0 friendly thrashing by Hamburg and which meant he missed the start of the league season, Cruyff was also being hounded by the taxman.

He's been saying for a long time that this would be his last season and he would retire before the World Cup Finals, so CFB fans were doubly upset to think that Cruyff might be prepared to sell his loyalty for the lu of American gold and the opportunity to succeed Pe with Cosmos.

A series of instant denials were rushed out, but hasn't done much to improve the atmosphere arour Nou Camp these days. For some time a dispute ha been simmering among the senior players over pa Striker Manolo Clares and vice-captain Juan Manu Asensi were two stars to make their feelings know about the higher rates being paid to Dutchmen Cruy and Johan Neeskens.

All in all, not a good omen for the new season. Ar CFB could have done without that Hamburg disaste

"If I'd had my way we'd never have dreamed

ks to Real Madrid's former manager

Miljanic leaves— but why?

for the whole of the season. He is the chief ing overseer and took over once before, like before I came to Madrid."

fact Molowny, who stepped in when Miguel quit in 1973, took a shattered Madrid to panish Cup.

He will do a good job again now," said anic. "He is a very capable man."

hat was Miljanic's side of the split. Now for a rent angle. For most of his time at Madrid the slav has had his critics. They were kept quiet e Miljanic was proving a winner, but grew e vociferous when things went wrong.

hey criticised first his tactics in playing to the ling strengths of Carlos Santillana and rto Martinez, and then attacked again when ried to produce a more rounded style. The all disappointments of Günter Netzer, Paul tzer and — so far — Henning Jensen, have n blamed on him. Trouble also blew up over janic's assistant, 44-year-old physical fitness rt, Srecko Radisic.

adisic has been variously accused of not ering to learn Spanish, tipping off Yugoslav ns to ways of beating Spanish opponents in ropean competition, and organising training ions which were either too tough or too lax.

Last summer Miljanic signed a new two-year contract, but there was a lot of discussion after last season's flop that he would be released forthwith. Instead Santiago Bernabeu, the 82-year-old president who has always been a staunch defender, made it clear Madrid would honour their contract with Miljanic.

This has now given rise to speculation that while Bernabeu was ill in hospital, Miljanic's opponents on the board took the opportunity to overthrow him . . . Miljanic says that wasn't the case. But no one can deny there has been more open dissent in the club now than at any time.

After the Manuel Velazquez benefit match against Paul Breitner's new club, Eintracht Braunschweig, Bernabeu made a speech at the banquet praising Velazquez and thanking him for his services to Madrid over the past 15 years.

In the middle of this oration someone shouted: "Why is he being released then?"

The sad fact is that Velazquez's nose was put out of joint when Netzer arrived, and he and Miljanic never saw eye to eye again, despite a 100,000 crowd. His farewell was not the usual festive occasion Madrid stage for their long-service stars.

It was with the Velazquez controversy still fresh in everyone's mind that the annual meeting was held — without Bernabeu in the chair for the first time since he took over the club in 1943.

Instead it was Madrid's 'iron man', Raimundo Saporta, who had to take charge. And some interesting words he spoke too when he was pushed about Miljanic — who was still then, of course, the coach.

Saporta said: "The question of Miljanic's position is not a matter of economics, but ethics," after it was suggested to him that the board had only hung back from sacking him because it would cost too much to pay out his contract.

"In the summer of 1974 Miljanic was signed for two years. In July 1976 his contract was renewed for two more years. After our tour to Mexico this summer we were all agreed to honour that contract.

"But, if it came to it, to replace Miljanic would not cost us a penny. A replacement is already employed by the club and being paid by us (Molowny). Miljanic's contract can be terminated for two reasons: either by his resignation, or if the directors think matters are going very badly . . . But Madrid have a special style and we shall wait to see whether it can be maintained."

NEXT FOR COSMOS

playing a tough game like that as a warm-up," growled coach Rinus Michels.

Meanwhile, Cruyff will not be the only man leaving the club during the next year. After 12 years as president, Agustin Montal says he is stepping down when elections come round in December.

It's clearly a wise move. Montal it was who brought Cruyff to Barcelona, and he no doubt doesn't fancy all the wheeling and dealing which will be necessary to find a similarly outstanding replacement.

Not that Montal can claim his reign to have been an outstanding success. With debts totalling more than £2 million, Barcelona are the most financially troubled club of a financially troubled league. At least they do have more assets in land, training grounds etc, than most of the smaller clubs who rely on personal guarantees to survive.

One more problem for Michels to sort out: Neeskens says he won't take any penalties this season. After Barcelona's abysmal time last term, when they missed more spot kicks than they converted, it's hardly a surprise. Still, it's sad to see that a man who was rattling the ball into the net with never a nerve in sight a few years ago, has totally lost confidence in himself.

No late signings for Barcelona this year. Daniel Astegiano, the Argentine striker from Independiente Buenos Aires, came for a trial, but made little impression. Barcelona have yet to decide whether to keep him and perhaps lend him to one of their affiliated clubs lower down the league.

PAUL GARDNER in Portland

PELE CHAM

SOCCER BOWL 77, the championship game of the North American Soccer League, proved to be a thoroughly rousing finish to a quite astonishing season.

Portland's somewhat old Civic Stadium was the site, selected a year ago before anyone had any idea who the finalists would be. It was a lucky choice, for who should turn up in the final, but the Seattle Sounders, who live only a few hundred miles up the coast. Virtually home territory for them. Their opponents were the Cosmos, as everybody had assumed, but as no one had really dared to predict, such was the erratic nature of the Cosmos season.

Under the NASL's play-off system, the regular season finishes with a winner in each of its four divisions. Such a victory is not enough to give a team the championship. No sir, nowhere near enough; not even if the team has the best won-lost record of all the divisions. Those winners, plus, if you please, the 2nd and 3rd place teams then go into a series of home-and-away knock out games. Almost as though a cup competition was grafted on to the end of the season.

The system has some very definite merits. It ensures that, even if one team runs away with the league, and sews the whole thing up weeks before the end, interest and excitement will be maintained. It is not, of course, fair to the division winners, who having won in the regular season, then have to put everything on the line in the play-offs.

That is risky. All four division winners were knocked out in the quarter-finals. The final was between a 3rd place team, Seattle, and a second place team, the Cosmos. No matter, such an arrangement also makes reasonably sure that the teams in the final will be the two teams that are currently playing at their best. It should, therefore, as far as is possible in this capricious sport, ensure a well-played game.

Which is exactly what we got. The Cosmos favoured, because they are the Cosmos, because they have all those names, because they've spent all that money, and for another, more emotional, reason: this would be Pelé's last game in anger, his chance to go out of soccer as a champion. Seattle? Well, solid defensively, capable of good attacking stuff, a collection of primarily British second and third division players who coach Jimmy Gabriel was trying to get to play in a sort of Dutch Whirl.

Accuracy

The biggest thing in Seattle's favour would be the crowd, the fans who were lining up outside the stadium at 9 in the morning for the 1 pm kick off, the fans who looked almost European with their noisemakers and their blue and green flags. By the time the teams came on the field the stadium was jammed, and a "response test" (I think that's what the PA guy called it) revealed an overwhelming volume of noise in favour of the Seattle Sounders.

The Sounders came out and did their thing, and did it amazingly well. Whipping the ball around with consistent accuracy and speed, they had the Cosmos on the run for large stretches of the first half. It may not have been up to Dutch standards, but it was a functioning whirl, and it made for wonderful open soccer. Shots from both sides — Seattle hitting the bar, then scoring, only to have it disallowed for offside. Beckenbauer for the Cosmos, slamming a shot against the prone goalie Chursky, then putting the easy rebound way over the bar.

Just when the pressure was mounting from Seattle, the Cosmos scored, the type of goal one has been expecting to see for years, but has never before seen. Chursky, having made a save, stands up, looks around, and as the players retreat, rolls the ball along the ground. But Stevie Hunt, the Cosmos lively winger from Aston Villa, is watching and like an arrow zooms in to kick the ball from Chursky's feet towards the goal . . . both players and the ball tumble and scramble back to the goal-line, but the ball is in — Hunt is racing back to midfield brandishing a soccer shoe in the air, Chursky is squatting in the goal, staring at the ground.

Four minutes later, Seattle turn on their best bit of whirling yet, a rapid exchange of three short passes in the Cosmos penalty area and Tommy Ord rasps the ball underneath the diving Messing.

Most of the chances have gone to Seattle in the first half, but the Cosmos have had their share, enough to suggest that if Seattle relax at all, they will be in trouble.

But not a bit of it. The second half is again all action and movement, shots and saves at both ends, with Cosmos goalie Shep Messing in particular having his work cut out. The oddity is that the Cosmos' three super stars, Pele, Chinaglia and Beckenbauer are being overshadowed — only Carlos Alberto, of the big names, is shining.

With thirteen minutes to go, Stevie Hunt again, beating the Seattle defence out on the left and sending over a marvellous curling left-foot centre . . . right on to the head of Chinaglia, criminally unmarked. A flick of his neck, and Chinaglia has scored the crucial goal, no chance for Chursky.

A goal that leads to a hectic, nail-biting, edge-of-the-seat final thirteen minutes. Seattle throwing everything at the Cosmos, leaving themselves wide open for counter attacks, living dangerously, but getting away with it. The Cosmos, under desperate pressure, also living dangerously. And also, ultimately, after many a narrow miss, surviving.

Pele has his championship. The crowd stands and cheers, although most of them would have dearly loved to see Seattle win. Some of them are down on the field, in amongst the players and the cops. There is the usual exchange of shirts going on, but Pele has waved away a couple of Seattle players. He wants to give his shirt to Jim McAlister, the Seattle fullback, who has played such a superb game. A fitting gesture, for McAlister is only 19 years old, a wholly American player, born and brought up in the Seattle area, exactly the type of player on which the future of American soccer must rely.

Assumption

Actually, McAlister's success in the North American Soccer League, encouraging as it is, raises a rather thorny problem.

It has been the assumption of most of the soccer authorities that, when the time came — as it should surely now be coming — for American players to start entering the pro league in large numbers, they would be coming from the colleges. That is what happens in the American sports of basketball and grid-football and, to a lesser extent, in baseball.

As soccer has always laboured under the stigma of being a "foreign" sport, what better proof could there be of its "American-ness" than to build up college soccer until it could rival the enormous popularity of grid football?

To this end, the NASL has its annual draft of college players, at which each of its clubs religiously select those players graduating from college whom they would, supposedly, like to sign.

Some of these players do, indeed, get signed, and some of them do actually play in the NASL. But far fewer than everyone would like. The promise of only a few years back, when it really did look as though college soccer was moving ahead has not been sustained. Or perhaps it is simply that the pro game has moved ahead far more rapidly.

Whatever the reason, there is a dilemma here. Many of the NASL coaches now feel, either openly or privately, that the colleges — far from producing potential pro players — are stifling them. That four years of college soccer for a boy between

E WINS HIS MPIONSHIP

the ages of 18 and 22 is an almost fatal experience.

The proof of this attitude is to be seen in a creeping growth in the number of American boys who are being signed directly out of high-school by the pro clubs. In other worlds, the NASL is inching towards the system that prevails everywhere else in the world.

Jim McAllister, of Seattle, is such a player. Another is the 19-year-old Tony Bellinger of the Dallas Tornado; his coach Al Miller rates him now, after only one year in the NASL, as five years ahead of what he could ever have accomplished in college.

This tendency does not mean that NASL coaches will now be swooping down and carrying off hundreds of potential college players, but it does seem likely to lead to some friction with college coaches, something the NASL could well do without. "It's a new situation," says NASL Commissioner Phil Woosnam, "one that is causing us some concern. We are giving it a great deal of thought, to see if any legislation will be necessary on our part."

There are, of course, two aspects that could lead to soccer's acquiring a bad image among American parents. If the players are to be signed direct from high schools, then the orderly gentleman's agreement of the college draft (in which all NASL clubs agree not to approach players selected by other clubs) would be circumvented, opening up the possibility of high-pressure recruiting of young, immature boys.

This sort of thing does, in fact, already go on in grid-football and basketball — where it is the college coaches who roam around trying to get promising high-school players (and often offering them illegal inducements). It is frowned upon — and would be even more objectionable if (as would be the case with soccer) it was pro coaches who were involved.

The other nasty possibility, is that some of the players signed from high school would simply not make it as pros — whereupon they would be back on the streets or wherever, having missed out on the possibility of getting a college education through their soccer skills. This because many colleges do now give full or partial soccer scholarships — but could not offer them to a player who had ever played in the pros, something that automatically ends his eligibility to play for a college.

The NASL has, in fact, taken one step, unofficially. That is to strongly suggest to any club that wants to sign a player out of high school, that they must come to an agreement with the boy guaranteeing him a college education. Which means in effect that the club will have to pay for four years of college tuition. Just when the boy will be able to attend college, is a problem that remains to be worked out.

What is the problem in the colleges anyway? It is twofold — the season is too short, perhaps an average of around 15 games a year, and the standard of coaching is, to put it mildly, poor. Four years of this at the very time when a young player should be maturing is considered a virtually insuperable obstacle.

Take the case of Ricky Davis, a 19-year-old from California whom national team coach Walt Chyzowych has called, "possibly the best native-born player ever produced by America." Davis, last year, was a freshman at the University of Santa Clara. A pre-med student, a very bright and personable young man.

But he will not be returning to college this year. Currently on tour with the U.S. national team in South America, Davis is weighing offers from a number of NASL clubs — including San Jose, Tampa, Dallas, Los Angeles and the Cosmos.

It seems likely that he will shortly be joining the Cosmos — though he may be signing on amateur forms, in order to retain his eligibility for the U.S Olympic team.

Chinaglia — scored the winning goal for Cosmos.

Watching Davis in action — in the national team games in New York he played right wing, though he feels centre-forward is his best position — you can see a tremendous reserve of raw talent . . . though it is, as yet, raw. Speaking to him, you find composure, maturity, intelligence, a real thirst for knowledge about the game. And you *know* that all that potential cannot be developed in college. In soccer terms, this young man has to join a pro club if he is to become the player he promises to be.

After an excellent game against the Peruvian club team Alianza (complete with Sotil and Cubillas), a game won by the US 2-1, Davis sat in the stands and patiently signed autographs for swarms of young boys. Some of them weren't sure of his name but all reacted with excitement when they found out he was Davis — "Davis? Yeah, No. 9, *aw-right!*" He is that sort of player, you remember the things he did on the foeld, his speed, his sudden changes of direction, his sheer muscularity.

Short and powerful, Davis likens his build to that of his hero, Gerd Muller, yet claims he doesn't really have a great interest in scoring goals: "I'd just as soon be on the winning side as score goals. But it's a challenge, you know, playing with your back to the goal, all that intuition, working out where people are. I'm short like Muller, he's 5ft 8½ins" and his weight I got in kilos, but someone worked it out for me, it's around 170lbs. He may not be the most skilful player, but he gets the ball into the net in all sorts of ways."

That is exactly what the U.S. national team needs, a goalscorer. Small wonder that coach Walt Chyzowych was one of the people whose advise Ricky Davis has been listening to. And that advice was to get out of the college system.

LEVSKY—SIX DOUBLE WINS

PRETTY WELL everything went right for Levsky-Spartak of Sofia last season. They finished three points clear in the league, beat Lokomotive Sofia 2-1 to win the Cup and reached the quarter finals of the Cup-winners' Cup.

by Keir Radnedge

But they also gained some notoriety along the way — and not merely because centre Kiril Milanov hit 13 goals in Europe, including six and four against the poor Finns of Reipas Lahti.

Spoiling that good effect was skipper and key defender Kiril Ivkov, who earned an eight-match UEFA suspension. Ivkov, 31 and footballer of the year in 1974 and 1975, was far too vehement in his protests to referee John Carpenter after the Cup-winners' defeat by Atletico Madrid, and Levsky were considerably weakened for their opening Champions' Cup-tie this season against Slask Wroclaw.

But though Levsky can count themselves among the traditional old names of European soccer, they've yet to force their way among the elite of the continent — even if the club's solid organisation promises progress in the not too distant future.

Levsky Sofia were founded in 1914, one of the first official sports clubs in Bulgaria at a time when football was only just getting off the ground. But for once it wasn't the English who introduced the game, but the Swiss.

In 1894 a dozen Swiss sports instructors were hired by the government of the newly-autonomous state of Bulgaria and one of them, Georges de Regibus, arrived with a couple of footballs in his baggage.

De Regibus arrived from Paris in August 1894, on the Orient Express, and was sent from the capital, Sofia, in the west, to the Black Sea port of Varna on Bulgaria's east coast. Football was one of his ideas for toning up the young people, but though the game gradually caught on it wasn't until 1909 that the first official club was formed.

It had 13 members, so they called themselves the Football Club 13. In Varna the Sportist club was set up, and then soon after came Slavia and Levsky — and these remain the most popular clubs in the country. Levsky, for example, frequently pull 20,000 crowds in a league where the average for the first division hovers at around 12,000.

Slavia it was, however, who won the first Sofia regional championship, a precursor to a national competition. Two years later clubs from all over the country agreed to form an association, and in the December the government authorised the inauguration of a National Sports Federation to unite all the various clubs and authorities and sort out any disputes over rules and the Laws of the Game.

A championship was begun in 1924, but with communications unreliable and the organisation far to complicated, it was never completed. So, in 1925, they tried again. This time they decided on a regional series of home-and-away matches, with the winners going into a knock-out competition to decide the winner. Vladislav Varna beat Levsky in the final.

Levsky were the most popular team in Bulgaria before the second world war, winning the knock-out championship in 1933 and 1937 — a year which marked a turning point. The next season a first division of 10 clubs was created, and league competition lasted right through the early war years until 1944 before the three-year upheaval of political life in the country as the Russian influence took over.

From 1945 to 1948 the championship reverted to the knock-out formula. Levsky, who had won the title in 1942, 1946 and 1947, were then involved in a qualifying tournament to decide which clubs should make up a reconstituted first division.

As they were the best team in the country they were hardly pushed. Indeed, so outstanding were Levsky that in 1942, 1946 and 1947 they had also won the knock-out Cup competition — three doubles in five years! — though the Cup trophy in 1946 and 1947 was a new one, presented by the Red Army.

Double

Levsky won the league in 1949 and 1950 and, in 1949, for the last time in 21 years, completed the double again. Not without tremendous difficulty. In the Cup Final in 1942 they had beaten Sportclub Plovdiv 3-0, in 1946 Tchernomorez Popovo 4-1 and in 1947 Botev Plovdiv 1-0. But in 1949 they faced much tougher opponents — the Bulgarian army club, then — and now — known abroad as CSKA (ZSCA in Bulgaria) but in between the dominant force under the title CDNA.

The first match in the 1949 Cup Final was drawn 1-1 after extra time; the replay also went the extra half-hour and finished 2-2; the second replay at 1-1. Finally, with sudden-death penalty contests yet to become the vogue, Levsky won the third replay 1-0 . . . with a goal in extra time!

A year later CSKA took their new title, and took over Bulgarian soccer. Levsky did win the league in 1953 and the Cup in 1956, 1957 and 1959. But they lost the 1953 Cup Final and double chance 2-1 to Lokomotive Sofia, and though spearhead Hristo Iliev was the league's top scorer with a mere 14 goals in 1955, the Levsky star was on the wane.

CDNA won the league in 1951 and 1952 and from 1954 through until 1962. It was a takeover unequalled in Europe, but Bulgarian football suffered for it. Though they qualified for the World Cup Finals for the first time in 1962, thanks to a play-off victory over France, standards elsewhere were leaping ahead while the unequal struggle in Bulgaria kept development back.

Only when CDNA slipped back in 1963 were the other clubs encouraged at last to come out of their stupor, and with that stimulus of competition Bulgarian soccer has started catching up in the field on tactics and training. Up until 1962 only CDNA's Ivan Kolev looked a class footballer in comparison with foreign stars. But after CDNA's demise their own Dimiter Yakimov, Slavia striker Petar Jekov, Levsky's Georgi Asparoukhov and Nikola Kotov and Plovdiv's Hristo Bonev emerged to impress their class in the international arena.

Levsky took advantage of CDNA's final failure with both hands. In 1965 they won the league for the first time in 12 years, and very nearly carried off the double. Only CDNA, now rebaptised CSKA, beat them 1-0, taking a belated revenge for that 1949 marathon.

Since then the two clubs have shared most of the limelight. Levsky won the league again in 1969, 1970, 1974 and again last season, finishing with the best attack in the first division, having scored 73 goals in 30 games.

They also took the Cup in 1967 (3-0 against Spartak Sofia), 1970 (3-0 v CSKA), 1971 (3-0 against Lokomotive Plovdiv), 1976 (4-3 after extra time against CSKA) and again this year. What is ironic about the victory over Spartak in 1967 is that two years later, under federation orders, Levsky took over Spartak to become the club we now refer to as Levsky-Spartak.

All told Levsky have achieved the league and cup double six times — the same as CSKA.

At international level, Bulgaria have not been the most admired of rivals. The dour safety-first attitude was introduced by the 20 Russian coaches drafted in after the war to help out. If they achieved anything, it was to instil as the first tactical point: Make sure your're hard to beat.

Not that it was always so. In May 1924 Bulgaria played their first international and were beaten 6-0 by Austria in Vienna. But that same year they joined FIFA and in 1932 and 1935 won the Balkan Cup. Their best players were both from Levsky. At centre forward was the tall and skilful Michail Lozanov, who played 38 times for his country, with Asen Peschev, his club-mate, at inside left or right. Peschev was Bulgaria's most dangerous pre-war forward, scoring 11 goals in 41 games.

Progress since the war has been steady, but slow. Bulgaria took the Olympic bronze in Melbourne in 1956, but hardly distinguished themselves in their first World Cup Finals appearance in 1962.

Beaten by Argentina and Hungary they were involved finally in the nightmarish 0-0 draw which qualified England for the quarter finals. Levsky's main contribution was 27-year-old central defender Ivan Dimitrov. Born on May 14, 1935, Dimitrov had only just switched to Levsky from Lokomotive Sofia. He played in all three 1962 Finals matches, but was overlooked because of his age when the 1966 squad was chosen. What makes the decision all the more surprising is that Bulgaria's manager, Vienna-born Rudolf Vytlacil, was also doubling at the time as manager of Levsky.

Georgi Asparoukhov, formerly of Levsky Spartak, killed in a car crash.

After the finals Vytlacil moved on, and Dimitrov was recalled for the 1970 Finals, bringing his appearance record for Bulgaria up to 70 — just five behind the then record-holder Ivan Kolev (Both have since been overtaken by Bonev).

Making their World Cup debuts in the 1962 Finals were two younger players who would form the backbone of Bulgaria's international effort in the 1960s. The first was another hard defender, Dobromir Jetchev, of Spartak, who would be taken on by Levsky in the 1969 merger.

Jetchev had made his Bulgaria debut as a teenager in 1961, and he played in Chile without arousing any comment. But it would be different in 1966. In England it was Jetchev who was given the charge of guarding Pele in the 2-0 defeat by Brazil. Sadly, it was a job he did not carry out with much finesse. And the tactics he was allowed to get away with were developed by the Portuguese to kick Pele out of the competition and themselves into the quarter finals. Bulgaria meanwhile, finished bottom of their group.

Jetchev would go on to a place in the 1970 squad and 55 caps — six more than the other 1962 debutant who also made a name for himself.

This was a six-foot former basketball player who scored 19 goals in internationals, was the league's top scorer with 27 goals — then a record — in 1965 and totalled 197 in a career which established himself as the first Bulgarian player with a big reputation abroad. His name — Georgi Asparoukhov.

Debut

'Gundhi' as he was nicknamed, was born on May 4, 1943, made his international debut at 19 in a 2-0 defeat by Austria in Vienna in the spring of 1962, and his name comes up over and over again when you go through Levsky's vital matches of the sixties.

Everywhere Levsky went with Asparoukhov, in Bulgaria at least, they drew big crowds and many of their big league games were switched from their own 33,000-capacity Gerena stadium to the 65,000 national Vassil Levsky stadium.

Yet for all ASparoukhov's fame, the World Cup never saw him at his best. A superb header of the ball, intelligent and remarkably skilful for a tall man, he was too inexperienced in 1962 to stand out in a poor side beaten 6-1 in the World Cup by Hungary.

Then, in 1966, having scored the two goals which beat Belgium in a play-off, he suffered a foot injury shortly before the finals. Asparoukhov put off an operation, but he was only at half-pace in the finals and a disappointment. Knee trouble, which kept him out of many league games in 1966-67, flared up again before Mexico in 1970 and, with Asparoukhov again hampered, Bulgaria lost to Peru (after being 2-0 up), were thrashed by West Germany and could only draw with Morocco.

Asparoukhov, because of his star status, was spared the criticism heaped on club-mates such as Dimitrov, Aladjov, Gaidarski and Jetchev, and returned home to life as usual. He was well paid, had a fine villa and an Alfa Romeo car. But his love of fast cars would be his fatal undoing.

In June 1971, driving to a match in the north, he crashed on a hill some 12 miles from Sofia. Asparoukhov and his friend, Nikola Kotov, were killed.

To lose Asparoukhov was one terrible blow. To lose Kotkov as well compounded the tragedy for Lesky. Kotkov was an experienced international himself, with 15 caps, and had scored 195 league and cup goals for Levsky. The tragedy wrecked Levsky's preparations for the Cup Final with Lokomotive Plovdiv, which was imminent. The federation put the game back to August and Levsky won it 3-0 with goals by Twetkov, and Petar and Ivan Kirilov.

It says a lot for Levsky's player development programme that they overcame the loss of their two stars so quickly, to maintain their place at the top of the tree.

As far as English soccer goes, Asparoukhov will probably be best remembered for a fine equaliser at Wembley in 1968. Most matches between the two countries have been eminently forgettable. Asparoukhov at least provided one rare skilful moment to savour.

Bulgaria, meanwhile, have gone on to other things. In 1968 they reached the Olympic final in Mexico City, only to be beaten 4-1 by Hungary in a riot of a game in which three Bulgarians were sent off. One of them was a man who has since established himself as their outstanding defender — Levsky's Kiril Ivkov.

With more than 40 caps, Ivkov is a well-built defender with skill, courage, confidence in the tackle and a good head for the game with allows him (opponents permitting), to play the role of sweeper from in front of his fellow defenders. The only flaw is one of temperament.

The Olympic final was one mad moment; the Cup-winners' tie with Atletico Madrid this past spring another. Levsky had been beaten, and eliminated, thanks to two penalties converted by Ruben Ayala. But Ivkov, having protested to the referee during the game, couldn't keep his cool at the end, and again clashed with the referee.

The result was an eight-match European club ban which plucked the heart out of Levsky's defence and dealt a massive blow to their hopes of at last making a mark this season in Europe's premier club contest.

Ivkov, had been one of Bulgaria's successes in the 1974 World Cup, even if, after qualifying unbeaten at the expense of Portugal, Northern Ireland and Cyprus, they failed again to make any impression. Draws with Sweden and Uruguay and a 4-1 defeat by Holland spelled the end of the road for a Levsky contingent which had included Jetchev, Stojanov, Aladjov, Milanov, Panov and Voinov.

Levsky in fact had supplied nine players to the original squad of 40, with Pavel Panov the most promising.

Panov was captain of the Bulgarian team who won the 1969 UEFA Youth Cup, when they beat their hosts, East Germany, on the toss of a coin after a 1-1 draw in the final.

A fine attacking midfilder, he's now played in 37 internationals and is only just 27. A year or two ago, when Bulgaria manager Stojan Ormandiev was basing his team on CSKA and virtually ignoring Levsky. Panov was sometimes the only man from his club in the national team. His talent, in making and scoring goals, was too much to overlook.

At the moment Bulgaria are striving for a fifth successive appearance in the World Cup Finals. France remain group favourites, but the Bulgarians won't mind if they can force even a play-off. After all, they got to Chile by beating France in a play-off in Milan, and reached England after beating Belgium in Florence.

Still, their passage so far hasn't been easy. They were very lucky to benefit from some poor refereeing and hit back from 2-0 down to 2-2 with Panov grabbing the equaliser, against France in Sofia. Then they struggled to beat the Republic of Ireland in a game which saw four men sent off — one of them the Levsky forward, Borisov.

And what of Levsky at international club level? Their record could be a lot better.

Their first appearance was in the 1965-66 Champions' Cup. Having beaten Djurgaarden of Sweden 1-2, 6-0 they had the

• Continued overleaf

LEVSKY—SPARTAK FOCUS

• Continued from previouse page

misfortune to be drawn against Benfica. Not the Benfica now who had won the trophy in 1961 and 1962, but still a formidable team. Asparoukhov, who had scored twice in the second leg against the Swedes, found the net again in Sofia after only four minutes, but the Portuguese hit back for a 2-2 draw.

It was Asparoukhov again who opened the scoring in Lisbon — even more quickly this time, after three minutes. But again Benfica replied quickly, Eusebio rocketing in a free kick from Mario Coluna.

Benfica scored twice more before Asparoukhov, the game's outstanding figure, pulled back a second for the eliminated Bulgarians. Out they went, but skipper and stopper Ivan Voutzov, Asparoukhov and forwards Alexander Kostov and Stefan Abadiev went on to England for the World Cup, some heady recompense for Levsky's failure to find a place in Europe the next season.

Levsky's first attempt at the Cup-winners' Cup then followed in 1967-68, but they immediately came to grief against the eventual winners, Milan. Ivkov was now a first-teamer, and did well in a goalless first half at San Siro, in which Levsky were nearer a goal than the Italians.

Asparoukhov, pulling poor Roberto Rosato all over the place, saw two sharp headers well stopped by Fabio Cudicini, and was bearing out the judgment on Levsky of Milan's former captain and assistant coach, Cesare Maldini, who had said: "They have all the technical ability of Balkan Teams, but they don't waste so much time going for goal. And that Asparoukhov — what a shot!"

Asparoukhov finally found the net with a neat goal early in the second half. But it meant little, sandwiched in a goal rush at the other end sparked off by Angelo Sormani and Kurt Hamrin. Milan won 5-1, but the turning point was the moment coach Nereo Rocco decided that Rosato was just out of his depth chasing Asparoukhov.

He switched Giovanni Trapattoni, now coach of Juventus but the Italy's most polished defender, to overcome the Levsky spearhead, and he succeeded to such an extent that Milan were able to concentrate on taking the Levsky defence apart.

Asparoukhov did score again in the second leg, but a 1-1 draw was all Levsky could achieve, and that meant two more years out of Europe.

Protest

They should have lined up in the Champions' Cup in 1968-69, but pulled out along with most of the other Eastern bloc teams in protest at the re-draw which followed the Russian action in Czechoslovakia, and were fortunate to find a place in the Cup-winners' Cup in 1969-70.

Levsky lost 2-1 to CSKA in the Cup Final, but since CSKA had won the league as well, Levsky went in through the back door. The coach was now Kiril Tchakarov, who had guided Bulgaria's youth team to their first UEFA Trophy success in 1959, and he steered Levsky through to the quarter finals, where they lost only on away goals to Gornik of Poland.

First came two 4-0 wins over IB Vestmannaeyjar of Iceland, then a 4-0, 0-0 win against St Gallen of Switzerland, accomplished without the injured Asparoukhov. Panov took over in his absence to grab his first goal in Europe, and both men scored in the 3-2 first leg win over Gornik in Sofia. Asparoukhov scored twice in fact, claiming the winner with a last-minute header. But in the return Gornik were soon 2-0 ahead, and Peter Kirilov's consolation came far too late.

Milko Gaidarski, a member of the 1968 Olympic team, was now a regular at full back, but the defence caught a real cold against Austria Vienna in the preliminary round of the 1970-71 Champions' Cup. With all their stars — Asparoukhov, Jetchev, Kotkov and Kostov — Levsky lost the return 3-0 after winning 3-1 at home.

The story was the same in the Cup-winners' Cup the next year — out first time. This time 1-1, 0-2 against Sparta Rotterdam. But then, Asparoukhov and Kotkov were missing now. . . .

The run of failures continued in Levsky's first UEFA Cup bid in 1972-73. After beating Uni Cluj 1-4, 5-1, Levsky went out 0-3, 2-0 to Dynamo East Berlin. So little chance did their fans give them of making up the leeway that only 10,000 turned out for the second leg in Sofia.

In 1974-75 Ujpest Dozsa thrashed Levsky 3-0, 4-1 in the opening Champions' Cup round, and then, at last, came signs that they had turned the corner.

In the 1975-76 UEFA Cup Levsky reached the last eight, beating Eskisehirspor 3-0, 1-4, MSV Duisburg 2-3, 2-1 and former European champions Ajax Amsterdam 1-2, 2-1 before going out 0-4, 5-4 to Barcelona in the quarter finals.

Triumph

That victory over Ajax counts as their greatest international triumph. Panov, who scored three times against MSV in the previous round, hit the three goals which forced the Ajax return into extra time and ultimately a penalty contest.

Levsky won the spot kick drama 5-4, suffered an attack of over-confidence, didn't prepare as they should have during the three-month break, and were beaten out of sight by Barcelona despite the Spaniards' internal problems involving Johan Cruyff and coach Hennes Weisweiler, and despite Panov's two goals in the second leg.

Still, quarter finalists they had been, and would be again, in last season's Cup-winners' Cup, after thrashing Reipas Lahti 12-2, 7-1 and beating Boavista 1-3, 2-0 before coming to grief 2-1, 0-2 against Atletico Madrid.

Not that their failure then deflected them from their assault on the Bulgarian league and cup; for, with Panov the country's top scorer with 20 goals, they were far and away the most outstanding team around.

Atletico Madrid assistant coach Joaquin Peiro described Levsky this way to me: "They are a fine all-round team. I saw them score four goals away from home in a Cup match before we met them, and though the opponents weren't of particular class, scoring four goals in someone else's ground is never easy.

"They are outstanding in midfield, with two men in Barzov and Panov who really know how to run a game, and the defence, though it's tough, also includes players who aren't afraid to play their way out of trouble. Ivkov the sweeper, above all, impressed me as a player of tremendous character.

"Of the forwards Milanov looks a born goal-getter, but the man I liked best was Borisov. His control is good even at speed, and he knows how to use the ball — when to hold it and when to get rid of it."

Before big games Levsky coach Vassil Spassov shuts his team away at the village of Dunja Bania, some 30 miles from Sofia, where the national sports federation have a training centre.

Pressures

Spassov is an old international himself and understands the need to escape the pressures of fans asking for tickets, journalists asking for quotes. Working under him he has — as head of a team of 11 trainers and medical experts — the former Levsky stopper Ivan Voutzov, Bulgaria's captain in the 1966 World Cup, when he also unfortunately headed through his own goal in the game against Portugal.

The duo were appointed at the end of the 1974-75 season, when Levsky, runaway leaders at the halfway stage after 17 games unbeaten, slipped to fifth place by the season's end. The next year bought a similar disappointment. Five points clear with five games to go, Levsky lost 3-1 to their closest challengers CSKA, then lost two more games and CSKA stole the title. But this time there were no sackings, and the club management's reward was the double last season.

Spassov had been coaching Omonia Nicosia in Cyprus after being sacked for his failure as national team boss in the 1970-72 European Championshipp. He had carefully studied the foreign teams who passed through Cyprus on their way to further exploits in the European club competitions, and this hard work of his probably explains how Levsky have proved better able lately to harness a mixture of hard work and energy to their highly proficient technical ability.

Spassov is also helped by the set-up in Bulgaria which restricts the number of transfers. If a player wishes to move he must lodge a request with the federation and obtain the agreement of his club. Lacking that agreement, he must endure a year's suspension. Also, no player under 28 is allowed to play for more than three clubs.

Most of Levsky's players have been brought up from their own football schools, the training centres which cater for up to 500 schoolboys and slot them into the meticulously-organised system of schoolboy, junior, youth and reserve competitions. Though Levsky are a multi-sports club, catering for 25 other games and pastimes, it is soccer in which they specialise, with two children's teams, two for ages 14-16, two for 16-18s and a host of semi-official affiliated local sides.

First choice goalkeeper now is Stefan Staikov, a 29-year-old with half a dozen caps — five of them before the last World Cup.

On the strength in depth of their squad and the organisation of the club itself, there seems no reason why Levsky should not maintain their progress. No Bulgarian club have yet made much of a mark in Europe. CSKA went down to Internazionale in a Champions' Cup semi-final play-off in 1967, but that is the furthest any side has gone so far.

I see no reasons why Levsky shouldn't get at least that far inside the next few seasons — as long as they keep cool.

DALGLISH MUST BE REPLACED

by Alex Gordon

KEVIN KEEGAN was once asked which team, outside Liverpool, he admired most and he replied Celtic. He said he liked their style, their attacking attitudes and their overall aura.

Parkhead fans have been brought up in a successful atmosphere, but this season things have stuttered along without much presence of style or real attacking attitudes. There is a huge black cloud of disappointment covering any glamorous aura. And the man indirectly responsible is Kevin Keegan!

If he had stayed with Liverpool instead of making the move to West Germany's SV Hamburg Celtic superstar Kenny Dalglish would almost certainly still be at Parkhead instead of taking Keegan's place in the Anfield machine.

There can be little doubt that the £440,000 Celtic received from Liverpool for Dalglish will be put to a good use, but the Parkhead fans would undoubtedly have preferred their former skipper to remain. They don't want any substitutes. They want the real thing. But they won't get it now.

The Celtic of this season and the Celtic of last season are two different sides and it is not just a coincidence that Dalglish was there last term and isn't there now. His worth to the Parkhead outfit has been cruelly exposed. His former mates are still looking for him when they have the ball, there is no-one with the ability to replace him for endeavour or outright skill.

Celtic's first three competitive games of the season at Parkhead were against Dundee United and Motherwell (twice). In those games Celtic didn't even manage to score one solitary goal. Yet, being brutally frank, Motherwell goalkeeper Jim Muir must be one of the worst I have ever seen in my life.

He is inexperienced at top level and it shows. In fact, he would be a free transfer player today if it had not been for injuries to Motherwell's other two 'keepers, Ally Hunter and Stewart Rennie. Yet, Celtic played three hours against him on their own home ground and couldn't get the ball past him once!

Certainly Celtic hit the woodwork four times in those two games, but they can't use that as an excuse for their mediocre performances. They haven't been lucky with injuries, either. They were looking to Alfie Conn to take over as the No. 1 entertainer with the departure of Dalglish, but in the opening League game of the season Alfie twisted his leg and had to be carried off. A cartilage operation then kept him on the sidelines.

Left-back Andy Lynch, sweeper Pat Stanton and midfield powerhouse Roy Aitken were all also injured and out for lengthy periods as Celtic fought to find some sort of rhythm.

I watched them in the League Cup match against Motherwell at Parkhead and wasn't impressed at all. Danny McGrain is still the best right-back in the world. Goalkeeper Peter Latchford looks confident and centre-half Roddie MacDonald will win more duels than he will lose.

However, in that game there was very little else to get excited about. Motherwell, admittedly, came for a draw and defended like their very lives depended upon leaving Parkhead without losing a goal.

It was hardly a tribute to their no-nonsense defence that they did so. Celtic were a lacklustre outfit with a lot of energy, but precious few ideas when the crunch came. Tommy Burns is a clever ball player, but his legs don't work as fast as his mind.

He can become over indulgent on the ball and seems afraid to use his right foot. I am certain he will, in time, become a superb player and a great asset to Celtic, but I think he is a luxury at the moment. He doesn't appear to get involved as much as he should do.

Against Motherwell sweeper Jim Casey was sprinting past him looking for through balls. I'm not certain if this is some strange new tactic, but it was certainly bewildering. A midfield player throwing balls in front of an attacking sweeper? It might work if the midfield player was willing to replace the defender, but that wasn't always the case and centre-half MacDonald was sometimes the loneliest man on the park.

Problems

Yes, Celtic have their problems. Their former player Lou Macari, Manchester United's bundle of energy, has often been in the running for the title of Celtic's No. 1 fan despite his transfer five seasons ago, but even he admits he doesn't think the League championship will come to rest at Parkhead at the end of the term.

And who can blame him? Celtic manager Jock Stein will know the problems better than I, but I wonder how he will go about rebuilding the confidence in the side. He has no intention of holding on to that massive £440,000 Dalglish transfer money, but at the same time he says he will not be held to ransom by other clubs. He says wryly: "I didn't know there were so many £100,000-rated players in Scotland!"

A lot of names have been thrown about in the Parkhead transfer game. Some scribes have had Stein prepared to buy five players at once! Any moves Stein will make in the transfer market will be done after careful consideration. He will not buy for the sake of buying, but he must realise that at least one new face is needed to 'lift' his side.

If Celtic are to be successful in the European Cup this season they will need a strong squad, but recent injuries have spotlighted a weakness in the Parkhead pool. Celtic's stay in Europe will be a short one if this is not remedied.

Some of the present players will have to accept that Dalglish is not there to inspire them, to motivate them, to guide them through troubled times. Players will have to accept responsibility and that hasn't been too apparent this season.

I have a lot of sympathy for Johnny Doyle. He is a worker, a trier, but he hasn't had much fortune in his efforts. I hope for his sake that his luck changes. Other players, though, will have to work that bit harder if Celtic are to be successful this season.

Ronnie Glavin had an impressive tally of goals to back up his ability last season, but he started this term as only a mere shadow of what he was with Dalglish alongside him. Johannes Edvaldsson looked lost up front against Motherwell in that League Cup-tie.

Jock Stein says he has a nose for snatching goals. I'm not going to argue with that, but I don't think he is going to be very successful if he is made the No. 1 striker in the team. He is the type of player who steals into positions and strikes when you least expect him. When he is thrust up the middle rival defences can keep an eye on him all the time and he isn't the swiftest player in Scotland.

Ron Kay is a useful player. He was picked up on a free transfer from Hearts at the end of last season and I think his style will suit Celtic, who struggled for cover in this position last year. Jim Casey is a clever player, but he is not a sweeper in the Pat Stanton mould and the former Hibs player was missed when he was out.

Paul Wilson will always be an unpredictable player. Wonderful one minute, woeful the next. Joe Craig was lethal last season, but he lost his touch in the early games of this season. It is something every striker must experience, but I'm confident he has the ability to come through his bad spell.

Stein has the nucleus of a good side. Latchford, McGrain, MacDonald, Stanton, Craig and Conn would be welcome in any team. The job now is to build and blend around them and all Stein's experience will be needed.

Chinaglia goal clinches title

A goal by Giorgio Chinaglia with 12 minutes and 41 seconds left in the game gave the New York Cosmos a 2-1 win over the Seattle Sounders in Portland, Oregon on August 28 and with it the 1977 championship of the North American Soccer League.

Chinaglia's goal broke a 1-1 deadlock after Steve Hunt had given the Cosmos the lead in the 19th minute only for Tommy Ord to equalise at 23:13. It was a close and exciting game watched by a sell out crowd of 35,548 in Portland's Civic Stadium. Many fans in fact overflowed the temporary seating and watched the game sitting on the grass. They gave Pele a standing ovation as he took the field in what is thought to be his last competitive game.

The Cosmos reached the final despite finishing second place in their division behind the Fort Lauderdale Strikers. As a result of this they were forced to play the third place Tampa Bay Rowdies for the right to meet Fort Lauderdale in the Eastern Division final. They had little trouble with the Rowdies

by COLIN JOSE

winning 3-0 before 57,828 fans at the Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey with Pele scoring twice and Chinaglia once.

A record crowd of 77,691 filled the same stadium to more than capacity when Fort Lauderdale came to town. The crowd was a record for any soccer game in North America. Eight times that evening Gordon Banks picked the ball out of the back of the Strikers net as the Cosmos went on to win 8-3 with Chinaglia scoring three times and Hunt twice. In the return game in Florida the Cosmos beat the Strikers 3-2 to sweep both games and reach the final of the Atlantic Conference.

Their opponents now were the Rochester Lancers surprisingly emerging from third place in the Northern Division. Along the way the Lancers had eliminated second place St. Louis 1-0 in a shoot out in St. Louis.

Last years NASL champions the Toronto Metros-Croatia were the next on the agen with the Lancers winning the first game 1-0 Rochester once again via the shoot o method after the teams were scoreless desp playing extra time.

Things looked bad for the Lancers in t return game when they were reduced to ni men after 43 minutes when Jose Costa a Miralem Fazlic were sent off by referee Jo Davies. But they marshalled their defen magnificently against an unusually ine Toronto team and as the game wore on beg to look very dangerous on the break. O sensed the inevitable and finally in the 78 minute Ibraim Silva broke away and be Zeljko Bilecki in the Toronto goal with cross shot with the Lancers still playing nin men against eleven.

Now the Lancers faced the Cosmos in litt Holleder Stadium in Rochester. Mirk Stojanovic gave Rochester an early lead b before half time the Cosmos had pulled ahea on goals from Chinaglia and Hunt. A crowd o 20,005 watched as the Lancers piled on th pressure in the second half but couldn't brea through what Beckenbauer called "ou umbrella defence".

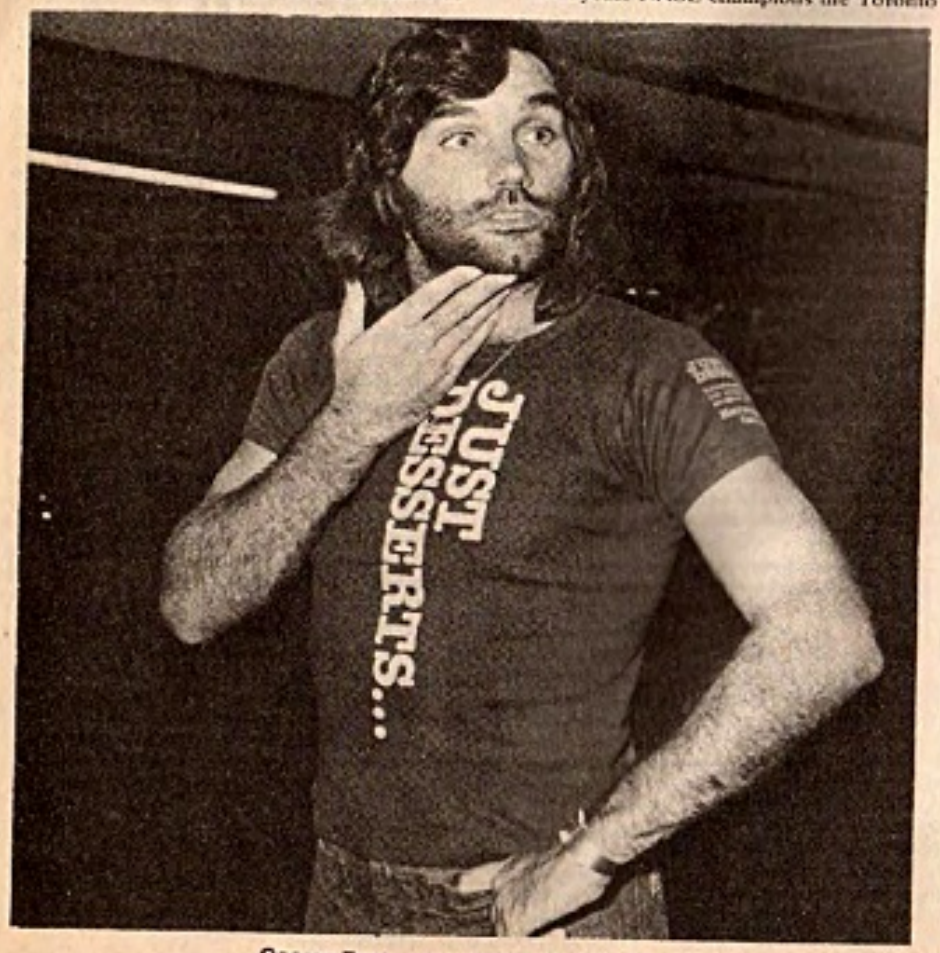
Limited

Giants Stadium was sold out for the retu game with the crowd limited this time to th exact capacity. Still heavy rain on the nig reduced the actual attendance to a little ove 73,000 and even had traffic backed up int downtown Manhattan. The fans may hav been wet but they went home happy as th Cosmos handed the Lancers a 4-1 defeat an won a spot in the Soccer Bowl. Once again was Chinaglia who did the damage scorin twice.

Meanwhile out in the west the Seatt Sounders, one of the best run clubs in th league, were coming from behind with a lat season surge after their poorest ever start t the season. Finishing third in the Wester Division behind Minnesota and Vancouve the Sounders, who at one point seemed i danger of missing the play offs altogether beat Vancouver in the sudden death game i the Canadian city 2-0 before a crowd o 21,215. Ironically the man who sparked th Seattle run and scored one of the goals agains Vancouver was Tommy Ord who had bee transfered to Seattle from the Whitecaps jus a few weeks before.

Now the Sounders faced the Minnesota Kicks, last year's beaten finalists, and beat them 2-1 in extra time in Minneapolis before 35,889. A crowd of 42,091 watched Tommy Ord settle the return game from the penalty spot with the Seattle club winning 1-0.

While all this was taking place in the Western Division down in the Southern Division the Los Angeles Aztecs, who had faded towards the end of the season to finish behind the Dallas Tornado, were suddenly beginning to find their form again despite the



George Best — pondering his future?

1977 Leading Scorers	G.P.	Goals	Assists	Points
Steven David, L.A.	24	26	6	58
Derek Smethhurst, T.B.	21	19	4	42
George Best, L.A.	20	11	18	40
Giorgio Chinaglia, Cos.	24	15	6	36
Mike Stojanovic, Roch.	24	14	5	33
Mickey Cave, Sea.	22	12	6	30
Alan Willey, Minn.	20	14	1	29
Pele, Cos.	25	13	3	29
Paul Child, S.J.	25	13	3	29
Kyle Rote, Dall.	24	11	6	28a

Atlantic Conference
Eastern Division
New York Cosmos 3 Tampa Bay Rowdies 0
New York Cosmos 8 Fort Lauderdale Strikers 3
Fort Lauderdale Strikers 2 New York Cosmos 3

Northern Division
St Louis Stars 0 Rochester Lancers 1
Rochester Lancers 1 Toronto Metros-Croatia 0
Toronto Metros-Croatia 0 Rochester Lancers 1

Final
Rochester Lancers 1 New York Cosmos 2
New York Cosmos 4 Rochester Lancers 1

Pacific Conference
Western Division
Vancouver Whitecaps 0 Seattle Sounders 2
Minnesota Kicks 1 Seattle Sounders 2
Seattle Sounders 1 Minnesota Kicks 0

Southern Division
Los Angeles 2 San Jose Earthquakes 1
Los Angeles Aztecs 3 Dallas Tornado 1
Dallas Tornado 1 Los Angeles Aztecs 5

Final
Los Angeles Aztecs 1 Seattle Sounders 3
Seattle Sounders 1 Los Angeles Aztecs 0

NASL — 1977 — Final
New York Cosmos 2 Seattle Sounders 1

North American Soccer League Final Standings Atlantic Conference

						Points	
Northern Division	P	W	L	F	A	Bonus	Total
Toronto	26	13	13	42	38	37	115
St. Louis	26	12	14	33	35	32	104
Rochester	26	11	15	34	41	33	99
Chicago	26	10	16	31	43	28	72
Connecticut	26	7	19	34	65	30	72
Eastern Division							
Fort Lauderdale	26	19	7	49	29	47	161
Cosmos	26	15	11	60	39	50	140
Tampa Bay	26	14	12	55	45	47	131
Washington	26	10	16	32	49	32	92
Pacific Conference							
Southern Division							
Dallas	26	18	8	56	37	53	181
Los Angeles	26	15	11	65	54	57	147
San Jose	26	14	12	37	44	35	119
Hawaii	26	11	15	45	59	40	106
Las Vegas	26	11	15	38	44	37	103
Western Division							
Minnesota	26	16	10	44	36	41	137
Vancouver	26	14	12	43	46	40	124
Seattle	26	14	12	43	34	39	123
Portland	26	10	16	39	42	36	98

loss of the leagues leading goalscorer Steve David with a serious knee injury.

After disposing of the San Jose Earthquakes the third place team in extra time on goals from Mihailovich and George Best, the Aztecs then went on to beat Dallas 3-1. In complete contrast to the crowds at the other games only 5,295 showed up in the vast Los Angeles Coliseum to watch this game. The return game in Dallas produced an even bigger surprise with the powerful Tornado going down 5-1 at home before 18,489.

Rejuvenated

So the championship of the Pacific Conference now rested between two rejuvenated teams and before a little better crowd of 9,115 in Los Angeles it was Seattle who had the edge even though the Aztecs scored first through Bobby McAlinden.

Seattle also won the return game this time before a crowd in excess of 50,000 by 1 goal to nil. It was to be a New York-Seattle final the dream game officials had hoped for the previous year when the final was played in Seattle. When it was all over New York had won 2-1 and the Cosmos had become the first team in NASL history to win the championship twice. The first time was in 1972 when they beat the St Louis Stars in the final by an identical 2-1 score.

Revitalising

While the play offs proceeded the NASL All Star teams, selected by the players were announced, and Ron Newman for his magnificent work in revitalising the Miami Toros into the Fort Lauderdale Strikers was named "Coach of the Year". Franz Beckenbauer won the player of the year award and young Jim McAlister of Seattle won the award for the best young player called the "Rookie of the Year".

With the season over clubs are already making plans for next year with the Chicago Sting announcing the appointment of Clive Toye to its staff, while Meridian Sports Management has made a bid to buy the Connecticut Bicentennials and move them to Indianapolis. There is also the possibility that the St. Louis Stars, the last surviving team from the 1967 National Professional Soccer League, will be moving from St. Louis unless the team can find a more suitable stadium.

Canada prepare for play-off

CANADIAN national team coach Eckhard Krautzun has invited 28 players to the Canadian national team training camp to be held in Toronto in preparation for Canada's attempt to win a place in the World Cup finals to be played in Argentina next year.

To qualify Canada must win the single place alloted to the CONCACAF region by winning the second round tournament to be held in Mexico during October. At that time Canada will play five games meeting each of the other competing nations once. The Canadians will play three games in Monterrey and two in Mexico City against El Salvador, Surinam, Guatemala, Haiti and finally Mexico. The Canada-Mexico game will be played in Monterrey and not in Mexico City as previously announced.

With three exceptions the 28 players named are all with clubs in the North American Soccer League. The exceptions are Jimmy Douglas, who plays for Toronto First Portuguese, Bruce Miller, a member of the British Columbia provincial under 21 team, and Stephen Feeney, a defender who plays for Bangor City in the Irish League. Feeney was born in England but went to Canada when he was two years old. He acquired Canadian citizenship before returning to Britain.

Release

The Canadians were also interested in obtaining Feeney's older brother Warren who plays for Glentoran and has been the leading goalscorer in Northern Ireland for the past three years. Warren Feeney is also a Canadian citizen, but cannot play for Candada as he has already played for Northern Ireland. Leaving no stone unturned Canadian manager John McMahon also contacted Brentford to try to obtain the release of Gordon Sweetzer who is also a Canadian and was born in Toronto. Sweetzer was Brentford's leading goalscorer last year with 22 goals, but the club was not prepared to let him go for such an extended period of time at such a vital time in the English season.

The full Canadian squad is: Goalkeepers: Zeljko Bilecki (Toronto Metros-Croatia), Jack Brand (Rochester Lancers), Tony Chursky (Seattle Sounders); Defenders: Stephen Feeney (Bangor City), Robert Iarusci (New York Cosmos), Bobby Lenarduzzi, Sam Lenarduzzi, Brian Robinson and Bruce Wilson (all Vancouver Whitecaps) and Bruce Twamley (Minnesota Kicks); Midfield: Garry Ayre (Vancouver Whitecaps), Mike Bakic (Rochester Lancers), Bob Bolitho (Vancouver Whitecaps), Jim Douglas (Toronto First Portuguese), Chris Horrocks (Las Vegas Quicksilver), John Kerr (Washington Diplomats), Wes McLeod (Tampa Bay Rowdies), Dale Mitchell (Vancouver Whitecaps), Jeno Strenicer (Toronto Metros-Croatia); Forwards: Brian Budd (Vancouver Whitecaps), Brian Gant (Portland Timbers), Glen Johnson (Vancouver Whitecaps), Victor Kodelja (Team Hawaii), Ike MacKay (Portland Timbers), Bruce Miller (British Columbia Under 21 team), Buzz Parsons (Vancouver Whitecaps), Peter Roe (Toronto MEtros-Croatia), Gary Thompson (Vancouver Whitecaps).

Before playing in Mexico the Canadians will undertake a tour to the Caribbean and Latin America playing an international against Trinidad and Tobago in Port-of-Spain on September 11 and a second international against Bolivia in La Paz on September 17 as well as two games against club teams in Costa Rica. The Canadians will also play Paris St. Germain in the Olympic Stadium in Montreal on September 27.

By the time that the team leaves for Mexico the 28 players will have been whittled down to 22. All but four of those chosen have played in international soccer before.

Young Boys out

THE first Swiss club to tackle this season's European competition, Young Boys of Berne, were put out in the preliminary round of the Cup Winners contest by Glasgow Rangers. After a dour defensive battle at Ibrox, which ended 1-0, the Bernese came close to repeating FC Zurich's triumph last year over the Rangers.

But it was not to be. Despite trailing by 0-1 and then 0-2 overall, the Young Boys staged a fine comeback to pull back two goals and just when it seemed that they must grab the winner, up popped Rangers' new forward Gordon Smith to swing the tie the Scots way. Their bustling forward Derek Johnstone, incidentally, was again sent off for a bad foul — just like last year, when he got his marching orders in Zurich, then for dissent!

SWISS ARE HAPPY

WHEN I translated and reviewed the reports and comments of the British Press on the international between England and Switzerland (0-0), for the Swiss paper "Sport" (Zurich), it struck me forcibly just how similar they were to those of six years ago. Then, after a 1-1 draw the reporters gave generous praise to the Swiss footballers, which boosted their confidence enormously. Just one or two voices of sarcasm do not detract from the overall fair comment which in itself was to me as surprising as the result itself.

Here were the Swiss, with only one win in their last nine matches (which included defeats by such soccer "powers" as Finland and Norway), deprived of three experienced international strikers — Peter Risi (injured), Daniel Jeandupeux (not released by French club Bordeaux) and Kurt Müller (sick) and with only three full time professionals in their ranks, (Barberis, Botteron and Chapuisat).

On the other hand England, under new management, with seven men from the side who won the European Cup for Liverpool last May and playing on their own feared Wembley ground.

It is to the credit of the Swiss that they did not try just to gain a prestigious draw by playing defensively, but went out and surprised England with some bold and imaginative attacking moves, which only faltered because of a lack of genuine strikers of international class. At least two English papers admitted that the Swiss could have led by 3-0 at half time.

Covering job

Switzerland's successes on the night were the midfielders René Botteron and Umberto Barberis — whom incidentally England's manager Ron Greenwood mentioned to me as those Swiss players who impressed him most.

But goalkeeper Erich Burgener and the two central defenders, Pierre-Albert Chapuisat and Lucio Bizzini, who did a marvellous covering job on Keegan, also caught the eye. Burgener dismissed the myth that continental 'keepers are poor on high crosses and that they punch the ball rather than catch it, because they don't relish physical contact. His positional play was a revelation.

What surprised everybody, on the visitors' side that is, was the realisation that this was Switzerland's normal performance! As the sports editor of Switzerland's biggest daily paper the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", Herr Hans-Ulrich Landolf said to me: "It wasn't as if we did play exceptionally well — rather that the England team was unbelievably poor!

The greatest compliment came from Ron Greenwood who was quoted in the 'Daily Mail' as saying: "When it comes to the world game we have to face it that England are no more highly rated than Switzerland. It's sad but true".

Switzerland's manager Roger Vonlanthen was delighted with his team's performance and now that they are out of the World Cup he can build for the future, perhaps on the nucleous of this side.

Switzerland's Pierre-Albert Chapuisat (left) tackles Trev Francis of England during the 0-0 international at Wembley

News from Switzerland by Arthur Rotmil

Basle ahead of Servette

In the championship the title holders Basel leapt to the front of go difference from Servette who certainly have problems with the experienced stars. The former England and Tottenham striker Marti Chivers was substituted once, spent one game on the reserve bench an came on as a sub in the third match. He could only keep his plac because the international forward "Joko" Pfister dropped ou following a cartilage operation.

Basel, led by their brilliant chief-coach Helmut Benthaus, ar beginning to click with their rejuvenated team and they could hold o to their crown. FC Zürich are also in contention despite missing th generalship of former captain Köbi Kuhn who finally hung up hi boots. The popular star footballer who did so much for the prestige o this country at international level, played exactly 396 League matche for Zürich with whom he has stayed for 18 years! He won medals for si championship and five cup wins and gained 63 caps. Kuhn, who will b 34 on October 12, leaves a void which cannot easily be filled.

An astonishing feature of the fifth League round: Every one of th six matches ended in an away win! This is a new "record" in the histor of the National-Liga.

Sad note: Kurt Odermatt (35), now with Young Boys, holder of 50 caps and playing in his 351 League match, was sent off for retaliation for the first time in his brilliant career. Before the match he was presented with a large bunch of red flowers — the card he received from the referee, a red one of course! Leading goalscorers: Elsi (Neuchatel) — 6; Stohler (Basel) — 5; Cucinotta (Zürich) and Nielsen (Basel) — 4 each.

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

Of Pele ... Mr Fish ... and others

IMITATION, they say, is the sincerest form of flattery. Look, then, upon this paragraph; and on this. The first comes from my SUNDAY TIMES History of the World Cup, pages 116-7.

The Brazilians not only had Gosling, whom the players treated as father or father-confessor, they also had, with memories of Berne in mind, their own psychologist, an amiable eclectic from Sao Paolo, grey-sweatered, often unshaven, whose precise methods were a little hard to comprehend. He did not, he said, believe in haranguing the players in groups, yet neither did he believe in talking to them individually, since this made their problem bigger. He believed in getting them to draw pictures of a man. The more cerebral players drew sophisticated pictures, the instinctive players drew virtual matchstick-men. The two made good wing partnerships. Forwards must project their aggression, defenders must contain it; a theory which must have taken heavy punishment if he chanced to see such defenders as the terrible Erhardt of West Germany.

And now, page 41 of **MY LIFE AND THE BEAUTIFUL GAME**, Pelé's autobiography, written in collaboration with Robert L. Fish, now published in a very handsome English edition by New English Library at £3.95.

Our new psychologist was named Dr. João Carvalhaes. He was a pleasant-enough person, who wandered about, studying us all idly, as it were, usually dressed in a grey sweater and either forgetting to shave, or unshaven because he preferred it that way. He explained that he was not in favour of addressing the players as a group, as little was ever accomplished in this manner. On the other hand, to talk to the players as individuals often made them nervous, increased their problems, and made any diagnosis unreliable. Instead, his method was to have all the players draw pictures of a man. The players with the most sophistication – if we had any in the team – would draw the most complicated and detailed figures: the least sophisticated would tend to draw skeletal childlike line sketches. His theory was that one of each of these two types should work well in the wing positions. (He never explained his theories, he merely expounded them.) A further theory of his was that forward should be defensive while defenders should have an aggressive attitude but be able to control it. He claimed he could differentiate between the types by the manner in which he drew his favourite art-subject man.

Flattered I suppose I am, in moderation, but it would have been more flattering still if only Pelé-Fish, or should I say Fish-Pelé, could have got it right, and understood what Dr. Carvalhaes and I myself were talking about when we spoke of forwards and defenders either projecting or containing their aggression.

There is also a blatant misunderstanding of the idea that players of these divergent types made good wing partnerships. "Should work well in the wing positions," indeed!

On second thoughts, I don't think I am flattered at all.

Dubious

We haven't heard much about club blocks in England for the last forty years or so, but when Ron Greenwood picked six Liverpool players plus Kevin Keegan for the game against Switzerland, the subject became thoroughly germane. My feeling has always been that in England, at least, the policy is a dubious one, since so many of the League clubs' key players tend to be from outside England itself.

This is certainly the case with Liverpool. They could scarcely have won the European Cup Final so majestically in Rome last May had Steve Heighway of Ireland not mastered Klinkhammer as thoroughly as Keegan did Berti Vogts. Now Keegan has gone, and Liverpool have been rebuilding around Kenny Dalglish — of Scotland.

In the 1930s, when Arsenal were so dominant, no fewer than seven Arsenal men played in the Battle of Highbury; suitably enough, at Arsenal Stadium, England winning 3-2. Two or three of those, however, came in because first choice players had been injured.

England did on a couple of future occasions play half-a-dozen Arsenal men in the England team in home internationals, but the results were indifferent, as might have been predicted. Arsenal, you see, revolved around the creative excellence of the little Scots inside-forward, Alex James, whose astonishing passes sent the wingers and centre-forward away. Without him, they were like a car without an engine. Or let us say, a car with a much diminished and inferior engine.

There seems to me another, more modern, argument against the use of club blocks, and that has been provided, willy nilly, by Dynamo Kiev. When things were going wrong with Russian international football, the Soviets press ganged the highly successful Kiev team into the national eleven, en bloc. For a time, that worked very well. But what with the European Cup, the Nations Cup, the Olympic Games finals and the normal club tournaments to contend with, it was scarcely surprising that Dynamo (supposed by Miljanic, among others, to be the playthings, the creations, of sports scientists) should blow up. They simply lost everything, falling in turn out of the the European Cup, the Nations Cup, the Olympic tournament, and even, at last, losing their Russian title.

I felt sorry for them. It seemed to me that they had been ludicrously over used. Whatever our bureaucrats and their tame scientists may hope, footballers remain men, rather than machines. Significantly, Kiev's results have improved enormously since they were no longer obliged to function as the international team. A lesson and a warning, there, for Bob Paisley.

What surprised me a little, however, was that when Greenwood did pick his Liverpool block, complete with the veteran Ian Callaghan, he should omit Jimmy Case, who surely had as much right to a place in the possibles as anybody but Ray Kennedy, who has done well for England in his recent internationals.

I was also a little uneasy about his choice of Phil Neal, a very useful man when he is able to go forward and join in attacks, but not the best of markers. Playing, it is true, on his weaker left foot, he was run ragged by Franco Causio in the New York game between England and Italy, just as Causio outplayed Mick Mills a few months later, in Rome.

At right-back, he would be up against Bettega rather than Causio, but if Bettega hasn't the magic sleight of foot, the dazzling effrontery, of Causio at his best, he needs enormously tight marking. It was, indeed, sloppy marking which enabled him to score the goal which Bill Shankly called the goal of the century, the galaxy, the millenium or whatever on television, last year.

The trouble is, alas, that we have so few full-backs of any stature. Trevor Cherry played so well at left-back in South America that I think he is much our best bet to contain Causio, but there is no obvious partner in sight, unless Gidman can recover fitness and form; and even Gidman, for all his pace and athletic power, is a better player when he is going forward. If only one could take a few years of Laurie Scott, regularly to be seen, still, at Arsenal matches. But then the Arsenal manager, Terry Neill, as he surveys his present full-backs, must think much the same!

ERIC WEIL reports from South America

Boost from provinces for soccer i Venezuela...

VENEZUELAN soccer is moving out of town and confirming the belief of many of its officials that the provinces are more fertile ground for the game in a country where baseball is still the number one sport.

Portuguesa, from Acarigua, have been undisputed champions for the last three years and last year Merida's Estudiantes were runners up. This season the professional league has been increased from eight to 12 clubs and three newcomers are from the provinces — Canarias and Barquisimeto (both were in the league formerly), Atletico Zamora and Universidad Merida.

At press time the top three places are filled by provincial clubs — Estudiantes 10 points (7 games), Valencia 8 (6) and Universidad Merida 6 (4) — while Portuguesa, engaged until recently in the Libertadores Cup, postponed their league matches and have so far completed only one game.

Apart from that, most matches in the pruvinces are getting comparatively big gates, while the four traditional Caracas clubs — Galicia, Italia, Portugues and Canarias — are not drawing the unexpected crowds and struggling under financial and organisational difficulties. Caracas clubs have, nevertheless, been the biggest spenders on transfers for players from abroad this season, but the results have so far not been apparent.

Venezuelan soccer is still dominated by foreigners with 65% of the 200 professional registered coming from abroad, mostly from South American countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Peru. Many of them are former stars getting on in years who however still have a lot to offer in a league where the standard is not so high as in their homeland. Among the most famous are winger Jairzinho, 33, who plays and guides champions Portuguesa, and defender Brito (Galicia) both of whom played in Brazil's 1970 World Cup winning team.

Many of the foreign players are forwards however and they score the majority of the goals. But their influence is helping the game tremendously as well as increasing interest and Venezuela's home grown players are not entirely in the background. This could be seen from Venezuela's campaign in their World Cup preliminary group this year in which they surprised by holding Uruguay to a draw (although the squad did include a few naturalized foreigners).

Champions Portuguesa, financially backed by powerful sugar growing interests, became the first Venezuelan team to reach the Libertadores Cup semi-finals this year and the game also gets a great impulse from TV transmissions of major games from all over the world.

ELSEWHERE . . .

● CHILE'S most popular club, Colo Colo, this season coached by former Hungarian World Cup star Ferenc Puskas, top the First Division at the halfway stage with their ga against Union Española (two points beh them) pending.

Colo Colo are unbeaten in their last matches . . . Last year's champions, Everto are also in contention, level in second pla with Union Española, while modest L Schwager, unbeaten leaders for the first games until Colo Colo stopped the run 2 have dropped down to fourth place . Palestino's Argentine forward Fabbia scored all four in his team's 4-2 victory ov O'Higgins and is easily league top scorer wi 19 (more than half his team's total) follow by Crisosto (Colo Colo) with 10.

● IN COLOMBIA, where the second half the season has just started with t "Finalizacion" championship, Argentina former international winger Oscar Mas, wh had played 20 years for his only profession club, River Plate, before joining America Cali on a free transfer this season, tops th scorers table with 14 goals and his club is point behind leaders Caldas in the A Grou after four games . . .

But there are problems behind the scenes i Colombia's 29th year of professional socce "El Tiempo" newspaper warns in a leadin article that the majority of clubs are in the re and not paying their dues to the FA which, i turn, could mean that this body would have t suspend payment of air fares for club travelling to away games which would make i impossible for some of the clubs to carry on.

● IN PERU, former Uruguayan internationa goalkeeper Roque Maspoli has taken over a coach of Sporting Cristal who line up sever current internationals and are in 10th place i the close 16-club national championship, bu only four points behind the four joint leaders — Alianza Lima, Deportivo Junin, Melgar and Colegio Nacional Iquitos — after 11 games . . .

Argentina's youngest International, 16-year-old Maradona (dark shirt) playing in a first division match for Argentinos Juniors against Temperley and, as usual, heavily marked.

LEFT: River Plate's international forward Luque is about to kick the ball out of Independiente goalkeeper Gay's hand in the first division match which Independiente won 2-1. In the rear is Trossero of Independiente. RIGHT: Trama (Racing Club) starts an attack with three internationals behind him — winger Houseman (Huracan) on the ground and halves Villa (Racing) and Ardiles (Huracan).

Meanwhile players of last year's champions Union Huural went on strike because they had not been paid for two months. The club is in financial difficulties as a result of their participation in the Libertadores Cup during which they had to play home games in the capital. Lima (their own stadium in the province was not up to standard) watched by barely 10,000 spectators. The modest club claims to have lost 25,000 dollars in the Cup while vice-champions Sport Boys report similar losses from their Cup campaign. The two Peruvian clubs were eliminated in the first round group by Venezuela's representatives.

● IN BOLIVIA, four clubs from the La Paz league — Bolivar (national champions), The Strongest, Always Ready and Municipal — have formed a breakaway "major league" which, they say, also has the backing of the principal clubs in the provinces who will break away from their own leagues to join it.

The upheaval is the result of Bolivia's shock defeats in the World Cup South American final round in Cali in July and appears to have the backing of the Bolivian FA.

● IN URUGUAY, Nacional duly won the major league title (first of the season's two main championships) and while the First Division had not started at press time, clubs were studying proposals to reorganise the championship to arrest the alarming fall in gates — which, however, is also due to the poor soccer.

The scheme, which would also bring clubs from outside the capital (Montevideo) into the championship, consists of one professional First Division of 14 clubs and two "amateur" divisions of 14 and 10 clubs to be linked by promotion and relegation. This could mean de-professionalising some clubs which can not draw the gates to maintain professional soccer.

National

● BRAZIL'S popular Corintians of the Sao Paulo League, who have not won a major title for 23 years, are now looking for Argentine players to end the famine.

Coach Osvaldo Brandau, in charge of Brazil's national team earlier this year has plenty of experience of coaching in Argentina. Club officials were recently in Buenos Aires trying to sign back Passarella, halves Ardiles, Gallego and J. Lopez who are all internationals and banned from being transferred until after the World Cup . . . In Rio de Janeiro, meanwhile, Vasco da Gama, winners of the Carioca Championship's first round, are also unbeaten leaders in the second round at press time.

● ARSENIO ERICO, former Paraguayan centre forward of Argentine club, Independiente, who died in Buenos Aires, aged 63, from a heart attack (following an operation) in July, holds a scoring record of 47 goals in one First Division championship (1937) which is unlikely to be beaten.

He ended his playing career in 1947 with Huracan when, in a match against his old club he dribbled past the entire Independiente defence, but when alone in front of the goalkeeper he decided to turn back rather than score — perhaps as a gesture to the club which took him to fame.

He had won the First Division title with them in 1937 and 1938.

BREAK 'BREAKS' RIVER PLATE

THE eight-week break in the Argentine Metropolitan First Division (while the national team played a series of home internationals) did not do three-point leaders River Plate any good. Since the resumption they have only picked up seven points out of 14 and have now lost the lead to Velez Sarsfield — a workmanlike side with no outstanding stars who top them by one point.

Several of River Plate's stars, notably international forward Luque, have lost form at the same time and the team is showing defensive weakness, lack of organisation and ideas. Yet they continue as the league's top scorers with 46 goals in 21 games. River Plate, known as the "Millionarios", are also in financial difficulties which they blame on having to play home matches away from their own stadium this season while it is being enlarged for the World Cup. But one of the main reasons is their expensive professional staff which costs more than it "produces" in gate money.

The team that should be topping the championship as it reaches the halfway stage are champions Boca Juniors . . . except that since the resumption they have again fielded reserve teams in three league matches and weak teams in others while reaching the final of the Libertadores Cup. The reserves gained five out of six points, showing Boca's strength in depth, but the champions are only two points from the top and would probably be ahead if they were not giving secondary importance to the league championship at the moment.

Midfield

Yet Boca's full strength team could not beat ailing River Plate in the meeting between the two classical rivals of Argentine soccer which was a yawn all the way, with too much midfield play, and ended 1-1. It was Boca's tenth unbeaten game. Earlier they beat Racing Club, another big club in the doldrums, by 3-0, finding time to score more goals than usual although there were 74 stoppages for fouls in the match.

It is said to be a record, but who wants to remember this kind of record? Boca, sure of their defensive strength (their defence is the best with only 19 goals against) let Racing come at them and knocked them out with counter attacks.

This type of soccer is keeping the league standard low and the Argentine FA is also concerned about the increase in violence on the field. Although 102 players had already been sent off this season the FA was concerned about the leniency of the disciplinary committee and called on referees to be tougher.

Defence and counter attack methods are on the increase and goals are getting scarcer than earlier in the season with the average now at 2.9 per game. Meanwhile the early season top scorer, Nani (Lanus), has been transferred to a Spanish club.

In contrast the good soccer of little Argentinos Juniors, well led by 16-year-old marvel Diego Maradona — Argentina's youngest international — and current league top scorer Alvarez (17 goals) is like a breath of fresh air. But Boca Juniors ended their nine-game unbeaten streak with a 1-0 win by scoring early and then dictating play by disorganising it to stop their rivals' attempts to play good soccer.

Independiente set the season's record with a run of 12 unbeaten games (now ended) which took them to fourth place. Their international forward Bertoni (sent off against England) is again under suspension for protesting.

POOLS BEN ARE IGNOR

I'M NO Pools addict, and perhaps this is why I remain perplexed that British punters prefer during the summer to study the form of obscure Australian teams rather than take advantage of the International Football Cup.

The what? All right, if you prefer, the *Internationaler Fussball-Cup*, or the *Coupe Internationale de Football*. And if those names still mean nothing, let's withdraw the veil and talk about this set-up under its popular nickname of Intertoto.

It's now 16 years since two of Switzerland's most respected football men obtained the go-ahead to start a summer competition with two aims. The first is now virtually forgotten, the second remains basic.

In a word, money.

But if that sounds uncharitable, let me explain that the Intertoto, which began as a mainly Central European speciality, survives because it provides a Pools fixture list during the summer months when regular league competition — save in Scandinavia — ceases.

In West Germany, Holland, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and many other countries, the fans fill in their entries on the basis of how Zurich will fare against Eintracht Frankfurt, or Standard Liege against Twente Enschede, Hamburg against Slavia Sofia.

And why isn't Britain involved?

Because Britain's Pools system is in private hands and is organised for commercial profit. Elsewhere the pattern is rather more social-conscious. The football Pools are run by government-backed bourds, and the income is ploughed back into sport.

Not only soccer, but swimming, ski-ing, Olympic preparations, gymnastics, ice-skating, you name it.

For example, in Switzerland the profits made on the domestic Pools helped finance the necessary construction work for the 1954 World Cup. And it is to Switzerland we must go to get to the heart of the Intertoto tournament.

The Founders

Founder No 1 was Karl Rappan. In fact, for some years the competition was known unofficially as the Rappan Cup.

Rappan had been born on September 26, 1905, in Vienna. He played for Wacker, Rapid Vienna and FK Austria, winning four international caps in the great days of the late twenties before emigrating to the country with which his name will always be synonymous — Switzerland.

Here he played for Servette of Geneva and Grasshoppers of Zurich before his intelligent approach to soccer earned him an appointment as team manager of Switzerland for the 1938 World Cup Finals in France. It was at this time that Rappan first came into contact with the ally who would help put together the Intertoto contest.

Ernst Thommen was then treasurer of the Swiss football federation, but we'll return to his role a little later.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL CUP 1977

Group One

Maccabi Jaffa 1, Halmstad 1; Maccabi 4, Vojvodina 3; Halmstad 1, FC Amsterdam 1; Maccabi 2, FC Amsterdam 1; Vojvodina 3, Halmstad 0; Halmstad 4, Maccabi 1; Amsterdam 1, Vojvodina 2; Vojvodina v Maccabi abandoned. Amsterdam 1, Halmstad 1; Vojvodina 2, Amsterdam 2; Amsterdam 3, Maccabi 1; Halmstad 3, Vojvodina 1; Vojvodina 3, Maccabi 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vojvodina	6	3	1	2	14	10	7
Halmstad	6	2	3	1	10	8	7
FC Amsterdam	6	1	3	2	9	9	5
Maccabi Jaffa	6	2	1	3	9	15	5

Group two

Maccabi Tel-Aviv 2, MSV Duisburg 3; Maccabi 0, Standard Liege 2; Maccabi 1, Twente Enschede 3; Standard 0; MSV 0; Twente 3, Maccabi 4; MSV 4, Standard 0; MSV 2, Maccabi 2; Standard 2, Twente 1; Twente 0, MSV 2; MSV 2, Twente 3; Standard 2, Maccabi 1; Twente 3, Standard 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MSV Duisburg	6	3	2	1	13	7	8
Standard Liege	6	3	1	2	8	9	7
Twente Enschede	6	3	0	3	13	13	6
Maccabi Tel-Aviv	6	1	1	4	10	15	3

Group three

Eintracht Frankfurt 2, Inter Bratislava 2; SW Innsbruck Frankfurt 1; Inter 5, Zurich 0; Frankfurt 4, Zurich Innsbruck 1, Inter 3; Frankfurt 1, Innsbruck 1; Zurich Inter 2; Inter 4, Innsbruck 2; Zurich 1, Frankfurt Innsbruck 3, Zurich 0; Inter 2, Frankfurt 6; Zurich Innsbruck 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Inter Bratislava	6	4	1	1	18	11
E. Frankfurt	6	2	3	1	13	8
S.W. Innsbruck	6	2	2	2	10	10
Zurich	6	1	0	5	4	17

Group four

Malmoe 3, Slavia Sofia 0; Grasshoppers 1, Malmoe Slavia 3, Hamburg 0; Malmoe 5, Hamburg Grasshoppers 1, Slavia 4; Hamburg 2, Malmoe Malmoe 1, Grasshoppers 0; Hamburg 2, Slavia 3; Slav 1, Malmoe 0; Hamburg 4, Grasshoppers 1; Slavia Grasshoppers 1; Grasshoppers 1, Hamburg 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Slavia	6	5	0	1	13	7
Malmoe FF	6	3	2	1	12	4
Hamburg SV	6	2	1	3	11	15
Grasshoppers	6	0	1	5	5	15

Switzerland, under Rappan, beat Portugal 2-1 to qualify for the first round of the World Cup Finals, and were strictly the underdogs against Sepp Herberger's highly-rated Germany. Yet after drawing 1-1 after extra time in Paris the Swiss recovered remarkably to win the replay 4-2, having been 2-0 down (!) at half-time. In the quarter finals they lost 2-0 to eventual runners-up Hungary, but already Rappan's reputation as a miracle man had been established.

Rappan's reputation lasted not just because of his further success in taking Switzerland to the quarter finals at home in 1954, or to the final stages in Chile in 1962, but because of the way he developed what is known as the *Verrou* defence, or Swiss Bolt.

Nowadays, it resembles little more in a diagram than an optimistic, more open, *catenaccio*, with the central defenders lining up behind each other. In fact, in 1953 and 1954 it was in applying the defensive lessons of the Bolt that Alfredo Foni steered an uninspiring Internazionale to the Italian championship.

Several times Rappan retired to his café in Geneva. But he just couldn't keep his ideas to himself. His greatest plan was for a fledgling European league, which would provide for an exchange of ideas between many more teams than could be catered for in the Champions' Cup. He travelled to Austria, West and East Germany, Holland, Poland and Sweden explaining his idea, and was encouraged at the reaction.

He had his teams lined up, now he needed someone to provide the financial guarantees. And this is where Thommen comes in.

Thommen was by now a director of the Swiss Sport-Toto organisation which he had helped set up in 1938 after studying for himself how government-sponsored Pools were working already in Sweden. In 196 Thommen was also a FIFA vice-presider and member of the World Cup liaiso committee. He enlisted the help of a go-ahea German named Hermann Neuberger (late chairman of the 1974 World Cup organisin committee and now DFB president) and th International Football Cup was almost read to be launched.

But there were some loose ends to be tie up first.

The most thorny was finance. Thommer had the answer, in an agreement between the separate Pools organisations of the countries involved through the two joint bodies, Intertoto and Euro-Football-Pool. In short, the Pools corporations of the participating nations pay a fixed allowance to their clubs to cover the costs of away games. The clubs keep the receipts from the home fixtures, except for a five per cent levy on 70 per cent of the receipts, which pays administration fees.

This way the clubs were virtually guaranteed against losses, and the Pools corporations could then take their profits from the punters, paying out of stake money the prizes and special bonuses for teams winning their respective groups.

Yet Rappan was nearly beaten to it.

While he was putting his plans together, a rival was trying to corner the Pools corporations.

The grandfather of the Champions' Cup was the Mitropa Cup, the Central European club knock-out which flourished in the 10 years before the second world war. When peace was restored, the Mitropa sadly lost its way. The Latin Cup in Western Europe and a glut of prestige friendlies sent its reputation, and attendances, sagging. The Champions' Cup all but killed it off.

The Mitropa Cup organising committee

EFITS ED...

INTERTOTO CUP
Keir Radnedge traces its history

Group five

Landskrona 3, Slavia Prague 5; Slavia 5, Young Boys Berne 0; Legia 1, Landskrona 0; Young Boys 4, Landskrona 0; Slavia 1, Legia 1; Legia 4, Young Boys 1; Slavia 6, Landskrona 1; Young Boys 1, Slavia 4; Landskrona 1, Legia 2; Young Boys 1, Legia 1; Legia 2, Slavia 2; Landskrona 2, Young Boys 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia Prague	6	4	2	0	23	8	10
Legia Warsaw	6	3	3	0	11	5	9
Young Boys Berne	6	1	1	4	8	18	3
Landskrona	6	1	0	5	7	19	2

Group seven

Jednota Trencin 4, LASK Linz 0; Lillestroem 0, Zaglebie Sosnowiecz 2; LASK 2, Lillestroem 1; Zaglebie 2, Trencin 0; Lillestroem 2, Trencin 3; Zaglebie 3, LASK 0; Lillestroem 1, LASK 0; Trencin 3, Zaglebie 0; LASK 1, Trencin 3; Zaglebie 3, Lillestroem 0; LASK 1, Zaglebie 3; Trencin 6, Lillestroem 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jednota Trencin	6	5	0	1	16	6	10
Zaglebie Sosn.	6	5	0	1	13	4	10
Lillestroem SK	6	1	0	5	5	15	2
LASK Linz	6	1	0	5	4	15	2

Group nine

Oesters Vaxjo 4, Zbrojovka Brno 2; Austria Salzburg 1, AAB Aalborg 1; Austria S. 1, Oesters 1; Zb. Brno 2, Aalborg 1; Zb. Brno 3, Austria S. 1; Oesters 2, Aalborg 2; Oesters 1, Austria S. 0; Aalborg 0, Zb. Brno 4; Aalborg 1, Austria S. 1; Zb. Brno 1, Oesters 2; Austria S. 1, Zb. Brno 2; Aalborg 1, Oesters 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oesters Vaxjo	6	4	2	0	13	7	10
Zbrojovka Brno	6	4	0	2	14	9	8
Austria Salzburg	6	0	3	3	5	9	3
AAB Aalborg	6	0	3	3	6	13	3

Group six

Frem Copenhagen 3, Ruch Chorzow 0; GAK Graz 0, NK Rijeka 3; Rijeka 2, Frem 2; Ruch 5, Graz 0; Graz 0, Frem 2; Rijeka 0, Ruch 1; Frem 2, Rijeka 0; Graz 0, Ruch 4; Ruch 2, Rijeka 4; Frem 6, Graz 0; Ruch 2, Frem 1; Rijeka 1, Graz 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Frem Copenhagen	6	4	1	1	16	4	9
Ruch Chorzow	6	4	0	2	14	6	8
Rijeka NK	6	2	2	2	10	6	6
Graz GAK	6	0	1	5	1	21	1

Group eight

Slovan Bratislava 3, B 1903 Copenhagen 1; Hertha 1, Admira Vienna 0; B 1903 0, Hertha 1; Admira 1, Slovan 5; Slovan 2, Hertha 1; Admira 1, B 1903 1; Hertha 0, B 1903 0; Slovan 5, Admira 1; Hertha 3, Slovan 0; B 1903 1, Slovan 1; Admira 0, Hertha 0; B 1903 1, Admira 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan Bratislava	6	4	1	1	16	8	9
Hertha W. Berlin	6	3	2	1	6	2	8
B 1903 Copenhagen	6	0	4	2	4	7	4
Admira Wacker	6	0	3	3	4	13	3

Group ten

Pogon Szczecin 2, KB Copenhagen 2; Sturm Durisol Graz 0, Pogon 0; KB 0, CS Chenois 0; KB 2, Sturm 1; Chenois 0, Pogon 1; Pogon 1, Sturm 0; Chenois 1, KB 1; Sturm 4, Chenois 0; KB 1, Pogon 1; Chenois 1, Sturm 0; Sturm 5, KB 2; Pogon 6, Chenois 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pogon Szczecin	6	3	3	0	11	4	9
KB Copenhagen	6	1	4	1	8	10	6
Sturm Graz	6	2	1	3	10	8	5
CS Chenois	6	1	2	3	3	12	4

suggested to UEFA that they should be allowed, under the UEFA banner, to reorganise their tournament in conjunction with the Pools set-up. UEFA refused. It couldn't be a direct party to any contest run with betting undertones.

But Rappan, Thommen and Co didn't want UEFA interference. They merely wanted UEFA's sanction. That having been granted, everything was all set. And in the summer of 1961 the Intertoto got under way.

Not without problems. Thommen, for example, was under a lot of fire because of his dual role in the Swiss Toto. Nevertheless, the competition has continued for 16 years and, fulfilling a vital summer gap for punters, will presumably go on doing so for a long time.

But, sadly, along the line the competition has lost the original path which Rappan mapped out.

These were his words soon after the competition came into being:

"I helped found it because an improvement in the quality of the game in different countries can be achieved only if several clubs of each country are engaged in international competition. The Champions' Cup is an excellent institution, but it can do little for the improvement of soccer throughout different countries. Often the same teams compete each year — Real Madrid, Juventus, Rapid Vienna, and so on.

"In the summer championship four clubs from each country get the chance to benefit from the contact with teams of other countries, the chance to experience and study new ideas and new styles of play.

"Automatically that must have a fruitful impact on standards in all the countries involved. If one average Swiss team plays another average Swiss team, it doesn't learn much. On the other hand, if the same team has the opportunity of meeting a Spanish, German, or Swedish team, that is bound to broaden its scope. . . ."

At that time there was the Champions' Cup, the Cup-winners' Cup had barely come into being, and club friendlies were a poor second best to serious international club competition. Yet the role Rappan saw for his new competition was shortly to be usurped by a mish-mash of a contest already in existence — the Inter-Cities' Fairs Cup.

Now known, of course, as the UEFA Cup, it is here that the second-best and third-best teams meet to exchange views, ideas, and styles, kicks, punches and thuggery. The Intertoto remains just . . . the Intertoto, whose sole *raison d'etre* is now to provide a summer coupon for the punters.

Obscured

And "form" is obscured even then — remember that on the continent it is forecasting the *result* which counts, not guessing the score-draws — by the attitude some clubs and players adopt.

Helmut Johansson, thoughtful West German coach of Grasshoppers Zurich, said recently: "You can't underrate the importance of playing in the competition. No other contest provides the same chance to experiment in a competitive league, but one which doesn't carry the same pressures. That's especially important for new signings.

"But it also provides youth players with the chance to gain experience against some of the best players in Europe, and it gives me the chance to experiment with tactics."

You can't blame Johansson using the Intertoto as a training ground — but is that fair on the punters, and is that what Rappan envisaged when the International Football Cup set up its offices in the same building as the Swiss federation?

The competition's other serious failing is its inconclusive nature. Up to, and including, 1966, the group winners played off through an uneven series of quarter- and semi-finals to find an outright winner. There were problems all the way with fixtures — and this became even more troublesome as the three major European Cups swallowed up most of the available dates between World Cup and European Championship ties.

In turn, this meant that one year's competition had hardly been brought to a ragged conclusion before another summer's matches were on the coupon and about to be played. Furthermore, the final series of knock-out matches did not figure on coupons, because they were played while domestic leagues were in full swing.

So in 1967 it was decided that once the groups had been completed that would be that. No play-offs, no outright winners.

That is why the International Football Cup, bearing in mind its role for the Pools addicts, qualifies easily as the outstanding example of a competition nobody can win.

The Football

If, maybe, I have been critical of the unfortunate way the tournament has been side-tracked by the accidents of football's political and competitive development, it can't be denied that Intertoto soccer is a qualified success.

● *Continued overleaf*

Intertoto Cup history—continued from previous page

Qualified, because playing in the summer months, nobody expects big gates or mass reporting in newspapers or on television and radio. But crowds have averaged out at about 3,000-4,000 a game — though I have attended Intertoto matches where attendances were far short of four figures.

The list of group winners demonstrates that in general the entrants have been drawn from those who missed out on the major prizes. Still, in the first contest the group winners included Ajax Amsterdam, Feyenoord and Slovan Bratislava, who all went on to win a major European club trophy. (Indeed, Ajax won the first Intertoto final against Feyenoord.)

Bayern Munich, Hamburg, Sporting Lisbon, Borussia Dortmund, Anderlecht, Inter-Milan, Dynamo Zagreb and Atletico Madrid are other clubs who have at one time won one of the "big three" and have also taken part in the Intertoto.

In the early years the outstanding team were the "other" side from Bratislava — variously known as Red Star, then Slovnaft, and now International. They beat Italy's Padova 1-0 in the 1962 final, and Polonia Bytom the next year — thanks to a goal from their outstanding forward, Adolf Scherer, a member of the Czechoslovak team who finished runners-up to Brazil in the 1962 World Cup Finals.

Bytom returned to win the final the next time round, beating Lokomotiv Leipzig, who then copied the Poles' example by winning at second time of asking, against Norrkoping, at the end of the 1965 competition. The 1966 competition was the last with a grand final, Inter Bratislava (formerly Slovnaft) losing after extra time in the second leg, to Eintracht Frankfurt.

Neighbours

Thanks to Inter, but even more neighbours and rivals Slovan, Czechoslovakia has been far and away the most successful nation overall, with 37 group wins — Inter accounting for five (1962-63-64-66-76) and Slovan the present record of seven (61-63-68-70-72-73-74). Next come Poland and West Germany, each on 22 overall.

Also thanks to Inter the Czechoslovaks claim one more record, for the highest score, in their 9-2 victory over Grasshoppers in 1971. But the biggest margin of victory fell to Wisla Krakow, when they beat another Swiss side, Young Boys Berne, 8-0 in 1972.

Altogether 20 nations have at one time or another put teams into the Intertoto, including France, although football Pools as such are not allowed there.

But by far the most interesting — and, for some, the most worrying — entries, have come in the past 18 months from Israel, of all places! Last year Beitar Jerusalem and Hapoel Beer-Sheba were invited in, and this year Maccabi Tel-Aviv and Maccabi Jaffa have taken part — Jaffa with notable success.

Is this a hint that Israel may be drafted into UEFA? And that's not such a daft supposition as it may appear.

For 18 months now FIFA officials have been fighting a losing battle over the Arab-dominated Asian Confederation's decision to expel Israel. It has been suggested more than once that FIFA may try to "arrange" for Israel to be slotted into UEFA.

I can't imagine, for one moment, that this would go through without some unpleasant exchanges involving the Eastern European federations, and I may be reading much too much into Israel's inclusion in the Intertoto. But . . . the foot is in the door.

Anyway, Jaffa were involved in the one hiccup of this year's tournament, when they met Vojvodina Novisad in Yugoslavia in a top-of-the-table clash in group one. In charge was FIFA referee Dusan Maksimovic — not that his top-level experience is very great, despite the fact that he's been on the international list for more than three years.

An odd group match in the UEFA Youth tournament in Sweden in 1974, an early European Championship tie the same year when Poland beat Finland 3-0, and then last November, Bayern Munich's 5-0 win over Banik Ostrava in the Champions' Cup, is a short pedigree for the trouble in which he has landed now.

Ill-feeling

Unfortunately — and it contributed to much of the ill-feeling aroused — Maksimovic's home is *in* Novisad, though it's hard to see how he could have acted much differently.

After 27 minutes, with the score 0-0, he awarded Vojvodina a direct free kick just outside the Jaffa penalty box. Jaffa's Moshe Leon refused to back off nine metres, so Maksimovic booked him. Still Leon insisted on moving forward before the kick was taken, and Maksimovic abruptly showed him the red card. Now Leon refused to leave the pitch, and Maksimovic had no option but to abandon the game.

Fortunately, however, the rest of the tournament has run smoothly. There was an entry of 40 teams from 13 countries, divided into ten groups. The biggest representation came from Austria, who had six teams involved, including champions Swarovski Wacker Innsbruck.

But the most outstanding competitors were the new Cup-winners' Cup holders, Hamburg, who led a strong four-team challenge from West Germany. They were in group four, with Slavia Sofia, Malmoe FF and Grasshoppers of Zurich — but finished third!

The reason was that new manager Rudi Gutendorf didn't field new signings Kevin Keegan and Ivan Buljan in any of the Intertoto games, and for the first couple — defeats by Slavia and Malmoe — he also passed over men like Georg Volkert and Rudi Kargus who had been on the West German national team's tour of South America.

In fact the only West German team to top their group were MSV Duisburg, despite their odd experiment of switching Ronnie Worm — West Germany's centre forward 18 months ago — to left back!

Eintracht Frankfurt had World Cup-winner Bernd Hoelzenbein to thank for a hat-trick in their shock 5-2 away victory over doughty Intertoto competitors Inter Bratislava. Eintracht's only other win was 4-1 against FC Zurich who included Conny Torstensson, their 28-year-old capture from Bayern Munich.

Hertha Berlin, now coached by Ku Kloetzer, who guided Hamburg through the Cup-winners' Cup, finished runners-up their group to Slovan Bratislava. The vi match was Slovan's 2-1 home win over t Germans. International winger Mar Masny got the first goal, while new cen forward signing Peter Gallis, from V Kosice, hit the winner.

Slovan were the first club certain of winni their group — the first of seven group winne from Eastern Europe out of 10.

Past winners

1961 — Group winners: Slovan Bratislava, Ba Ostrava, Spartak Hradec Kralove, 1st Vienn Feyenoord, Ajax, Orgryte, Sparta Rotterdam. Final: Aj 4, Feyenoord 2

1962 — Group winners: Red Star Bratislava (la Slovnaft, then Inter), Padova, Servette, Ujpest Doz DFK Belgrade, Rijeka, Tatabanya, Pecsi Dozsa. Fin Padova 0, Red Star Bratislava 1.

1963 — Group winners: Standard Liege, Sampdor Modena, Rouen, Rapid Vienna, Bayern, Orgryt Norrkoping, Slovnaft, Slovan, Polonia Bytom, Od Opole. Final: Slovnaft 1, Polonia 0.

1964 — Group winners: Hertha, DWS Amsterdar Kaiserslautern, Liege, Lok. Leipzig, Empor Rostoc Szombierki Bytom, Karl-Marx-Stadt, Malmoe, Slovna Polonia Bytom. Final: Polonia v Lok. Leipzig 0-3, 5-1.

1965 — Group winners: Lugano, Fortuna Geele Norrkoping, Orgryte, Motor Jena (later Carl Zeiss Jena Empor Rostock, Lok. Leipzig, Chemie Leipzig. Fina Lok. Leipzig v Norrkoping 0-1, 4-0.

1966 — Group winners: Eintracht Frankfurt, DWS Go-Ahead Deventer, Ado Den Haag, Zaglebi Sosnowiecz, IFK Goteborg, Gornik, Inter Brat Vorwaerts E. Berlin, Norrkoping. Final: Eintrach Frankfurt v Inter Brat., 3-2, 1-1 aet.

1967 — Groups: Lugano, Feyenoord, Lille, Liers Hannover, Zaglebie, Polonia Bytom, IFK Goteborg, Ruc Chorzow, VSS Kosice, KB Copenhagen, Fortun Dusseldorf.

1968 — Karl-Marx-Stadt, Hansa Rostock, Slovan, VS Kosice, Lok. Kosice, Odra Opole, Eintrach Braunschweig, Legia Warsaw, Nurnberg, Ajax, Sporting Lisbon, Feyencord, Espanol, Ado Den Haag.

1969 — Malmoe, Norrkoping, Szombierki, Wisla Krakow Odra Opole, SV Fürth, ZVL Zilina, Jednota Trencin, Fren Copenhagen.

1970 — Slovan, Hamburg, Union Teplice, Maastricht, VSS Kosice, Eintracht B'schweig, Slavia Prague, Marseille, Oesters Vaxjo, Wisla Krakow, Austria Salzburg, Banik Ostrava, Polonia Bytom.

1971 — Hertha, Stal Mielec, Servette, TZ Trinec, Atvidaberg, Eintracht B'schweig, Austria Salzburg.

1972 — Eintracht B'schweig, Hannover, Saint-Etienne, VOeEST Linz, Norrkoping, AC Nitra, Slavia Prague, Slovan.

1973 — Hannover, Slovan, Hertha, Zurich, Row Rybnik, Un. Teplice, Feyenoord, Wisla Krakow, AC Nitra, Oesters Vaxjo.

1974 — Zurich, Hamburg, Malmoe, Standard, Slovan, Spartak Trnava, MSV Duisburg, Banik, VSS Kosice, CUF Barreiro.

1975 — SW Innsbruck, VOeEST, Eintracht B'schweig, Zaglebie, Zbrojovka Brno, Row Rybnik, Atvidaberg, Kaiserslautern, Belenenses, Celik Zenica.

1976 — Hertha, Vojvodina Novisad, Widzew Lodz, Djurgaardens, Oesters Vaxjo, Young Boys Berne, Un. Teplice, Banik, Zb. Brno, Trnava, Inter Brat.

Cup of the Alps

THE INTERTOTO is the most far-reaching of all Europe's summer tournaments, but it is not the only one.

Set up at around the same time — in 1960 — was the Cup of the Alps, a club tournament which has, over the years, involved teams from Italy, West Germany, France and Switzerland but which, over the past five years, has boiled down to a Franco-Swiss speciality.

Originally the idea was that clubs from competing countries would play all the clubs from the *other* countries but not their domestic rivals, and the points total at the end would give victory to one country or the other.

In 1960 and 1961 — the first two years — when only Switzerland and Italy took part, Italy ran out winners. After that the formulation was changed so that an individual club should win each year. In 1963 French clubs competed for the first time, but dropped out the next year and in 1965 the contest was suspended for a year.

Italy and Switzerland reactivated the Cup in 1966 and West Germany joined in for the next three years. In 1970 and 1971 it was just between the founders again, but the Italians decided to pull out in 1972. France moved in and even provided the winners in Nimes.

The most successful team over the years have been Servette of Geneva, winners in 1973, 1975 and 1976. But they came badly unstuck this year after once again looking the best bet for the title.

Each country provided four teams, and these were split into two groups with France's teams playing Switzerland's clubs home and away. In the final group fixtures Bastia needed only a draw at home to Lausanne to top group A, while Servette could have stood a 2-0 defeat away to Reims and still headed group B.

Remarkably, Reims went mad, hammered Servette — the outgoing Swiss champions, 8-0 and went on to take the title by beating Bastia 3-1 in the final.

Group A. — Basle 2, Bastia 3; Lausanne 2, Lyon 1; Basle 3, Lyon 2; Lausanne 1, Bastia 1; Bastia 3, Basle 0; Lyon 1, Lausanne 2; Bastia 1, Lausanne 0; Lyon 4, Basle 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bastia	4	3	1	0	8	3	7
Lausanne	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Lyon	4	1	0	3	8	9	2
Basle	4	1	0	3	7	12	2

Group B. — Bordeaux 0, Servette 1; Reims 4, Neuchatel 2; Servette 2, Reims 1; Neuchatel 1, Bordeaux 1; Servette 4, Bordeaux 0; Neuchatel 1, Reims 2; Reims 8, Servette 0; Bordeaux 4, Neuchatel 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reims	4	3	0	1	15	5	6
Servette	4	3	0	1	7	9	6
Bordeaux	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Neuchatel	4	0	1	0	6	11	1

Final. — Reims 3, Bastia 1 (1st prize £6,000; 2nd prize £2,500).

Past winners. — 1960 Italy. 1961 Italy. 1962 Genoa. 1963 Juventus. 1964 Genoa. 1966 Napoli. 1967 Eintracht Frankfurt. 1968 Schalke. 1969 Basle. 1970 Basle. 1971 Lazio. 1972 Nimes. 1973 Servette. 1974 Young Boys Berne. 1975 Servette. 1976 Servette.

EUROPE'S other main summer competitions take place in the myriad four-team tournaments held in an assortment of Spanish cities during August. Of these the Teresa Herrera contest in Coruna and the Ramon de Carranza at Cadiz are the most prestigious and a synopsis of the results will be included in a later edition of *World Soccer*.

Two other major summer tournaments are now defunct. The one was the Friendship Cup, competed between French and Italian clubs from 1959-1961 and 1963 with Swiss clubs taking part also in 1962. Run on similar lines to the original Cup of the Alps — the first contests were settled on a country's aggregate points — it was abandoned after 1963.

Winners. — 1959 Italy. 1960 Italy. 1961 Italy. 1962 Lens. 1963 Genoa.

* * *

THE OTHER competition was the post-war predecessor of the Champions' Cup. The Latin Cup was between the champions of Portugal, Spain, Italy and France, with the 'result' being declared on a four-yearly basis after each year's club winner had been awarded four points, the second club three, the third two and the fourth one — if you can follow all that!

That was one of the reasons the Latin Cup was wound up after the second edition in 1957!

The two most memorable matches both featured Real Madrid. They gave warning of their impending European takeover by beating Reims 2-0 in the 1955 final — a year before beating them again in Paris in the Champions' Cup final — then in 1957 Madrid beat Benfica 1-0 in their own Chamartin stadium thanks to a goal from Kopain. A grand climax to a dying tournament.

LATIN CUP 1949. — Semi finals: Sporting Lisbon 3, Torino 1. Barcelona 5, Reims 0. 3rd place: Torino 5, Reims 3. Final: Barcelona 2, Sporting 1.

1950. — Semi finals: Bordeaux 4, Atletico Madrid 2; Benfica 3, Lazio 0. 3rd place: Atletico 3, Lazio 2. Final: Benfica 2, Bordeaux 1 after 3-3 draw.

1951. — Semi finals: Milan 4, Atletico 1; Lille 6, Sporting 4 after 1-1 draw; Atletico 3, Sporting 1. Final: Milan 5, Lille 0.

1952. — Semi finals: Nice 4, Sporting 2; Barcelona 4, Juventus 2. 3rd place: Juventus 3, Sporting 2. Final: Barcelona 1, Nice 0.

First edition result: Spain 12 pts. France 10, Italy 9, Portugal 9.

1953. — Reims 2, Valencia 1; Milan 4, Sporting 2 aet. 3rd place: Sporting 4, Valencia 1. Final: Reims 3, Milan 0.

1954. — Not held because of the World Cup.

1955. — Real Madrid 2, Belenenses 0; Reims 3, Milan 2 aet. 3rd place: Milan 3, Belenenses 1. Final: Real Madrid 2, Reims 0.

1956. — Milan 4, Benfica 2; Bilbao 2, Nice 0. 3rd place: Benfica 2, Nice 1 aet. Final: Milan 2, Bilbao 1.

1957. — Benfica 1, Saint-Etienne 0; Real Madrid 5, Milan 1. 3rd place: Milan 4, Saint-Etienne 3. Final: Real Madrid 1, Benfica 0.

Second edition result: Spain 12 pts, Italy 11, France 9, Portugal 8.

● *continued from page 13*

And Magdeburg's signing of Hansa Rostock centre-forward Joachim Streich had further upset him. Now he was no longer required as an out and out striker, and found it hard to adapt to the role of attacking midfielder. His effective understanding with Hoffmann was disturbed, and Krügel was fired at the season's end.

Buschner took East Germany off to Montreal for the Olympics, but it was no surprise now that Sparwasser was missing from the squad of 17. Without him the DDR beat Poland 3-1 to win the gold medal and embarked on a series of more than a dozen games unbeaten.

With that sort of record who needed Sparwasser, even if he had once scored the winner against West Germany?

Urbanczyk took over as coach a year ago, with Magdeburg in the UEFA Cup. But with Pommerenke suffering a broken leg they were no match for Juventus in the quarter finals, and Sparwasser had to admit; "We're not the team we were a few years ago. We've slipped back a long way. There's no way we can compare now with Juventus. I'll back them to win the UEFA Cup . . . "

It's tempting to point out that he had more luck last season as a tipster than as a player.

Magdeburg finished runners-up to double-winners Dresden in the league, but injuries piled up. Streich, the league's leading scorer with 17 goals, broke an arm just before the season finished. And Sparwasser was thus forced back into service into his old position as centre-forward for the start of the new season.

That was how Buschner got the idea of recalling him to fill the injury gap against Russia in Leipzig.

These are the rewards of success; the rewards which followed one World Cup and could follow another. East Germany compete with Austria, Turkey and Malta for a place in Argentina.

Jügen Sparwasser has set his heart on being there. He hopes his goal in Hamburg was no flash in the pan. But next year he will be 30, and Magdeburg will be looking to their next crop of youngsters to push him hard for a place in even his club team.

East or West . . . a footballer's career generally ends with the same dilemma.

Good start for Atletico

ATLETICO MADRID opened the season in convincing style, beating Valencia 3-0 at home.

This was the fixture which rounded off last season, when Atletico's ideas of celebrating the championship were dashed as Valencia won 3-2 in the Estadio Calderon.

No mistake now. Atletico were in charge from start to finish, with Ruben Cano scoring a hat-trick. And victory was accomplished without Brazilian forward Joao Leivinha, who has had to undergo yet another operation on the damaged knee which kept him out of half the games last season.

Not so good for Atletico the next week however. They went down 4-1 in San Sebastian to Real Sociedad, leaving Salamanca unlikely leaders as the only team to win both their opening matches.

Also on the opening day Bilbao staged a repeat of the Cup Final — Athletic against Betis. The Cup Final needed two dozen penalties to settle it, and the even balance of the teams was emphasised again in the league with a 0-0 draw.

JUVENTUS MARCH ON

CHAMPIONS Juventus are proving unstoppable. After qualifying for the final stages of the Italian Cup they set *Calcio* alight by opening their league campaign with a six-goal supershow.

Hapless victims were Foggia. They were pleased to be still on level terms at 0-0 at half-time, but when Roberto Bettega rattled in goal No 1 three minutes after the break the floodgates were about to open.

In the 57th, Bettega — who had already scored well in the Cup — added a second and Roberto Boninsegna added two more in the 71st and 84th minutes. Defender Antonello Cuccureddu sneaked forward to score in the 80th minute, and Foggia back Novilio Bruschini completed a miserable afternoon by putting through his own goal.

Juve look set to carry on where they left off last season, in winning the league and the UEFA Cup and reaching the final stages of the Italian Cup. Against Foggia there was no place for their £1 million capture from Cagliari, Pietro Virdis.

Not that the youn newcomer could remain forgotten for long. Just before the new season Roma president Gaetano Anzalone weighed in to Juventus for snatching Virdis as they did, when Roma had been poised to sign him. Juve could have done without those gratuitous insults after the problems they had persuading Virdis to leave his native Sardinia.

Juve had begun their season with the traditional curtain-raiser against a foreign national team — this time beating Hungary 3-1.

There was a 3-1 win as well for neighbours Torino, beating Czechoslovakia in a game for the dependants of former skipper and assistant coach Giorgio Ferrini.

But trainer Gigi Radice, who led Torino to the league crown 18 months ago, is far from happy. Torino found their way through the early matches in the Cup, but were far from impressive.

"We are Torino, one of the greatest clubs in the land," Radice told his men. "When we run out on a pitch the fans — even the opposing fans — expect more from us than we've been showing so far."

The pep talk clearly came a little late. Torino, beaten only once in the leage last season, lost their opeing game 2-1 to Roma before 80,000 in the Stadio Olimpico. And that was after going 1-0 through Paolino Pulici in the 34th minute!

Torino looked rocky under consistent pressure in the second half, and Agostino di Bartolomei equalised from a penalty just after the hour. The winner was scored two minutes from time by Roma's 19-year-old substitute, Guido Ugolotti.

It was a victory to delight Roma's new coach, Gustavo Giagnoni. He was sacked by Torino after building the team which Radice then went on the take to the league title. Not that Giagnoni has had it easy in the Eternal City.

After watching his team in pre-season warm-ups, Giagnoni gritted his teeth and murmured: "What a disaster of a team. We've got some work to do here!"

Even more upsetting for Giagnoni was the fact that they failed to qualify in the Cup. Giagnoni blamed it all on the "typically Italian one-goal mentality."

He explained: "The trouble with our players is that once they've scored once they think it's enough. They've come to believe that they can just sit back and two points are certain. The trouble is that not only do they try and make the game safe with more goals, but they let up in defence and that can ruin everything."

Giagnoni's other problem concerns full back Francesco Rocca. A knee injury kept him out for most of last season and flared up again in pre-season training. Now Roma have sent him to see a specialist surgeon in Barcelona and Rocca may have to give up his ideas of a return this side of Christmas.

That's not only a blow for Giagnoni, it's a disappointment for national team boss Enzo Bearzot, who counts Rocca as perhaps the best full-back in Italy.

But if Torino were upset by their defeat in Rome, Internazionale fans were bitterly dispirited when Eugenio Bersellini's team went down 1-0 at home to Bologna, who barely escaped relegation last season when Inter finished fourth!

Gianluca De Ponti scored the all-important goal eight minutes before half-time.

Inter came to the new season with high hopes. They had lost Mazzola, but bought a new young star in another Sandro, this time named Altobelli, from Brescia. And they had done tolerably well in Spain in the Carranza trophy in Cadiz. They beat the local first

PINA BACK FOR SPAIN

AFTER TWO years in the international wilderness, Marcial Pina was recalled by Ladislao Kubala to Spain's squad for the friendly with Switzerland.

Marcial's last international was the 2-0 European Championship win over Denmark in October 1975 and his recall was a major surprise since he had been in and out of Barcelona's team until his transfer this summer to Atletico Madrid.

The other inclusion worth noting is that of Real Sociedad's young prodigy, Roberto Lopez Ufarte, in the senior squad for the first time after shining with the youth team.

Kubala's preparations hit one snag however, when his passport was stolen. That prevented him taking a spying trip to watch World Cup rivals, Rumania. Assistant Chus Pereda had to go instead.

Kubala's squad for the Switzerland game:

Benitez, Biosca, Alabanda, Lopez (Betis); Arconada, Lopez Ufarte, Setrustegui (Real Sociedad); Olmo, Asensi, Miguell (Barcelona); Quini, Maceda (Gijon); Solsona, Maranon (Espanol); Marcial, Leal, Ruben Cano (Atletico Madrid); Juanito, Camacho, Pirri (Real Madrid); Manzaneda, Palmer, Cordero (Valencia); Churruca, Guisasola, Dani (Bilbao); Juanito (Sevilla).

LUIS SUAREZ is ready for a return to Spain after 13 years in Italy, first as a player then as a coach . . . 48 foreign clubs visited Spain this summer for the pre-season tournaments. Most rowdy were Nacional of Montevideo. *Six* players were sent off in their 4-2 defeat by Salamanca in the La Linea tournament . . . MARTINEZ LAREDO, former president of Burgos, was given a suspended three-month jail sentence for his part in the free-for-all which followed Barcelona's visit near the end of last season . . . EMILIO GURUCETA, the FIFA referee, again proved the most unpopular when the Spanish first division clubs named the men they *don't* want controlling matches this season.

Valencia chase Platini

VALENCIA, after chasing here, there and everywhere, have at last solved their problem over the second permitted foreigner.

The departure of Holland's Johnny Rep for Bastia of France left Valencia with only Argentina's Mario Kempes, and coach Marcel Domingo pressed his directors to introduce a big new name from abroad.

An attempt to make Borussia Moenchengladbach part with Rainer Bonhof failed. Bonhof has signed an option with Valencia, but only to take effect after next year's World Cup Finals.

So Valencia turned their attention to French star, Michel Platini. Nancy were in Valencia for a summer tournament, but talks didn't get very far. Each time Valencia made an approach, Nancy kept putting the price up until they were asking virtually £1 million!

From Platini, Valencia looked to Schalke's right winger, Rüdiger Abramczyk. Apart from the fact that Abramczyk, like Bonhof, is an integral part of Helmut Schön's World Cup plans, Schalke weren't too pleased at such inquiries. When they started talking in terms of £850,000 Valencia's interest cooled.

There remained only one way out — to get someone on the cheap from Argentina. Target No 1 was Independiente's Daniel Bertoni, the man sent off for thumping Trevor Cherry in the recent international with England. But Bertoni is on Cesar Menotti's list of untouchables, so finally Valencia have ended up signing Boca Juniors striker, Dario Felman.

Felman had been released from Menotti's permit list a little while back and Boca were in no position to refuse Valencia's £110,000 offer — even though the loss of Felman weakened their team on the eve of the Libertadores Final.

Accordingly the 22-year-old left winger flew to Spain to sign all the necessary papers just seven hours before the deadline for new signings for the season!

Significantly he has been signed on just a one-year contract. Valencia want to be able to release him assuming they finally land Bonhof next summer.

Meanwhile the *Ches* have released one man — midfielder Fernando Tirapu, to join Athletic Bilbao who, in turn, are poised to sell Angel Rojo II to Salamanca. Also set to join Salamanca is Espanol's Paraguayan striker, Roberto Cino. But the transfer was held up when the Salamanca medical adviser claimed to have discovered a heart defect.

Another South American moving to Spain this summer has been Estudiantes' Uruguayan centre forward Hugo Cabezas, who strengthens the Betis forward line for the Cup-winners' Cup, while Real Madrid have sold left back or outside left Benito Rubinan to Burgos as a belated part of the deal which took young winger Juanito the other way.

A couple of players have left the country. Athletico Madrid have sold Ramon Heredia, the Argentine 1974 World Cup defender, to Paris Saint-Germain, and Portuguese striker, Rui Jordao, has gone back to Lisbon. Jordao, who joined Zaragoza a year ago from Benfica, joins their greatest rivals, Sporting Club.

To replace him Zaragoza have signed another Paraguayan to partner Nino Arrua up front — Carlos Mendieta.

MAJOR TRANSFERS THIS SUMMER

Player	Pos	From	To	Fee
ULI STIELIKE	MF	Borussia Mg	Real Madrid	£450,000
ENRIQUE WOLFF	MF/Def	Las Palmas	Real Madrid	£380,000
RAFAEL ZUVIRIA	OL	Santander	Barcelona	£330,000
ESTEBAN	Def	Malaga	Barcelona	£310,000
JUANITO	OR	Burgos	Real Madrid	£300,000
JUANJO	Def	Salamanca	Barcelona	£260,000
FERNANDO TIRAPU	MF	Valencia	Bilbao	£250,000
SANCHEZ BARRIOS	OL	Real Madrid	Sevilla	£240,000
ANGEL LANCHAS	Def	Salamanca	Espanol	£200,000
AITOR AGUIRRE	CF	Santander	Bilbao	£180,000
DARIO FELMAN	OL	Boca Juniors	Valencia	£110,000

division side 2-1, then went down 2-0 to Atletico Madrid in a rough-house of a final.

Also in action in Spain, with more success, were Italian Cup-winner, Milan. They took part in the Atletico Madrid-organised City of Madrid tournament, and were by far the most outstanding team. First they beat UEFA Cup Finalists Bilbao 3-0, despite having midfielder Giorgio Morini sent off. Then in the final they defeated America of Rio 3-2.

The best player was without any doubt veteran skipper Gianni Rivera. He was in imperious mood against Bilbao, scoring two of Milan's goals, one from a penalty. He didn't score against America, but laid on two goals for Albertino Bigon. Aldo Maldera scored a third and Milan led 3-0 at half-time against the Brazilians who included the younger brother of one of Milan's old favourites, Amarildo.

America hit back in the second half to narrow the gap to 3-2 and the game disintegrated into a pitched battle between the teams when, with three minutes to go, Milan's anxiety and America's frustration boiled over.

Rivera was in the news for more than his football ability. He has just become a father, but what created the mild sensation is that Rivera and actress Elisabetta Viviani have no plans for getting married.

"Don't you think that will upset some of the fans?" he was indecorously asked.

"Don't be ridiculous," replied Rivera. "What matters to the fans is how I play football."

Which wasn't very well, in Milan's first league game, before 62,000 in Florence. In fact coach Nils Liedholm substituted Rivera at half-time when a pre-season injury began to catch up on him. Milan were 1-0 at the time, but Rivera's substitute, Egidio Calloni, saved a point with a goal 30 seconds from full time.

It was a nostalgic moment for Enrico Albertosi, Milan's 37-year-old goalkeeper, who played his first league game with Fiorentina back in 1959. Albertosi says he may think about retiring at the end of this season . . . if Milan win the championship and he wins a place in the World Cup squad for Argentina!

Milan have been tipped by a few rivals as the team to watch this season. But a lot of loose ends need tying up — such as pacifying midfielder Fabio Capello, who threatened to walk out during the summer. His transfer from Juventus just over a year ago has turned out a personal disaster.

As for Fiorentina, the directors continue putting as much faith in a local astrologer as in coach Carlo Mazzone. It remains to be seen whether he has yet taken advantage of the crystal ball to come up with the right team-mates so that Gianearlo Antognoni can be shown consistently at his best.

Fiorentina have now given up all hope of bringing that once-so-promising midfielder Vincenzo Guerini back into league soccer. Some 18 months ago Guerini was badly hurt in a car crash. He's returned to the Fiorentina training grounds, but only as a coach for the schoolboys.

Napoli have been the most methodical team so far — apart from Juventus. Having had a large clear-out of players and engaged a new coach in Giuseppe Di Marzio, they qualified easily for the Cup finals and began their league campaign by beating Pescara, newly-promoted, by 3-1. The third goal was scored by Luciano Chiarugi who, it has been thought, might join the exodus.

There were clearly no ill-effects from the silly incident when Napoli took to the hills for pre-season training and half a dozen stars were lost in the woods after an avalanche. It took helicopters and a rescue party to find them, tucked away safely in a little hut.

Paolino Pulici

IRAN SET FOR FINALS

from ROBIN PARKE in Hong Kong

WITH the marathon Asia-Oceania World Cup final elimination group half-way towards completion, Asian champions Iran look a firm bet to make it to Argentina . . . thanks mainly to their lone goal away win over Australia.

With three matches played Iran have taken five points from six but the crunch game was in Sydney where a goal in the last 20 minutes was enough to beat a disappointing Australian side who missed a penalty one minute before the interval.

On that miss the game turned and a disappointed Australian coach, 30-year-old Englishman Jim Shoulder, said later: "You need the breaks. They went Iran's way today, now we are really up against it."

Iran forced a creditable 0-0 draw with the strong South Korean team in Seoul and beat a visibly nervous Hongkong 2-0 in the Crown Colony, leaving themselves in the happy position of playing their remaining games at home — plus one away to their Middle Eastern neighbours, Kuwait.

Little wonder that the Iranian players were mobbed by an ecstatic crowd on their return to Teheran from Australia. The fiercely ambitious Iranians clearly see Argentina just around the corner, and it is difficult to disagree with this viewpoint.

The Iranians showed some of their power in the Real Madrid Centenary tournament earlier this year and there is no doubt that they are the most advanced of all the Asian and Middle Eastern nations.

Future

The failure of Australia at home was a bitter blow to the country's burgeoning soccer hopes and future. Officials of the Soccer Federation, notably their able secretary, Mr Brian Le Fevre, spoke of the vast amounts of money they were forced to spend on their bid to make it to their second successive World Cup finals.

"We undertook a very extensive tour of Asia and Europe late last year and, of course, because of our geographical position we have to outlay a lot of money to enable us to complete our commitments overseas," he said.

Purely for finance, the Australian Soccer Federation considered participation in the 1978 finals as vital. Those hopes, though not extinct, are definitely wavering at the moment.

It looked for a time during their home game against South Korea as if Australia's travel plans to Argentina had perished for good. They trailed 1-0 at the interval and did not score the eventual winner in a 2-1 result until eight minutes from time — and a most fortunate goal it was.

A Korean defender blazed the ball frantically away from the goalmouth in an effort to clear his lines only to see the ball strike Australian forward John Kosmina in the chest and are lazily back over the despairing leap of the Korean goalkeeper.

The Koreans, who are a doughty set of fighters, were worth a valuable point and, certainly, Australia can expect a battle royal when they face up to the return in the Korean port city of Pusan in late October.

Staked

Hongkong's modest hopes of global glory finished very early on. Forced, through financial reasons chiefly, to play two home games immediately, everything was effectively staked on the outcome against Iran and South Korea.

The results were depressing. Palpably nervous in front of 28,000 chanting fans the Colony side went under 2-0 to Iran through goals conceded by basic defensive errors.

A week later they were drawing 0-0 with South Korea until nine minutes from time when a free kick, stupidly conceded on the edge of the area, was driven home by impressive Korean striker Cha Bum-kuen. A long journey to Adelaide ended in a dispiriting 3-0 defeat despite an excellent first half which saw Australia looking far from World Cup material against the speedy Chinese forwards.

Quest

The dark horses in the quest for Asia's ticket to Argentina are undoubtedly the Kuwaitis who have yet to play a game.

Coached by Brazilian maestro Mario Zagallo, who arguably knows more about the World Cup than anybody — two medals as a player in 1958 and 1962 and team manager in 1970 and 1974 — the enthusiastic Kuwaitis have certainly blossomed under his care.

Kuwait broke new ground by going to Britain where they tackled the Welsh international team and played a couple of club friendlies. It is a good build-up to the present Asian elimination series but there are doubts about the team.

Zagallo admits himself that the team is built round a nucleus of four players. "If I lost them, or even any one of them, then my team is in very big trouble. That is the terrible risk we run.

"It is not like Brazil. We do not have the reserves if something goes wrong," he said.

Period

With this in mind it seems remarkably strange that Kuwait will play all their games over a six week period out of the five months allowed for the completion of the five-nation event.

This will put an enormous strain on the players and the risk of injury — the very thing Zagallo fears most — is consequently even higher than would be considered normal.

The Kuwaitis will make their first appearance in Hongkong on October 2 and there will be plenty of attention focused on them. The oil rich nation has not spared hard cash in a bid for success, although the players are, in fact, amateur. Bonuses in the form of houses and cars have been handed out following success in Asian competition and a berth in Argentina would have its considerable rewards for the players — and, of course, the dapper Mr Zagallo.

Pressure

However, it is the Iranians who have done the thing that really matters most — they've put the early points on the board, and the pressure firmly on their most immediate challengers, Australia.

Australia, faced with a ferociously tough away programme and still with problems in their team, must be odds against in their efforts for a second tilt at the World Cup.

Iran, strong and resourceful, are the logical choice at this time to be Asia's elect in Argentina. And they might well prove excellent ambassadors, too.

International Microscope

Albania —their record

by ERIC BATTY

THE Albanian's are the only national team in Europe that I have never seen, in fact being perfectly honest, I have never even seen one of their club sides in action.

This is not through want of trying, or lack of interest, but bearing in mind they have only played 47 full internationals — and some of those were Olympic games qualifying round games — it is not really surprising.

Everything here then is passed on from what I have been able to gleen from others more fortunate, from West German and Dutch journalists who have been to Tirana when their national teams played there.

I have been trying to go to Albania for years, just to have a look at their football out of curiosity, but obtaining a visa is almost impossible. For a start there is no Albanian Embassy in London and just to make an application, you have to go to Paris which is the nearest.

By all accounts the Albanians have had some quite useful players and from time to time have put together the makings of a useful team. For example I know that in 1964, their Army team, Partizani Tirana was invited to play in Hanoi in an international tournament for East European Army teams and there they did very well, beating Dukla Prague 2-1 and reaching the final where they lost to ZDSA Moscow, which translated means the Central House of the Red Army. As such they are the pick of all the army players in the Soviet Union, able to draw their players from well over a million men.

Style and ability

On the debit side, their worst ever defeat was by 12-0 (Ferenc Puskas 5) when they visited Budapest in 1950, but that defeat was against what developed into the Puskas, Kocsis, Bozsik team, who scored six at Wembley, so it is clearly not at bad as it looked for the Hungarians could probably have done the same to many others around that time.

Albania have had some more than useful players according to my informants. For a start there was a left half from Partizani called Lin Shallaku, described as 'similar in style and ability to Josef Masopust', who earned the European Footballer of the Year award in 1962.

Other very good players were the left wing pair, inside left Panajot Pano and his wing partner Robert Jashari, who played for Partizani, and are the country's most capped players.

Other guides to Albania's football ability are given by the experience of the West German side 1st FC Koln who played Partizani in the European Cup. The Germans drew 0-0 in Tirana and won 2-0 at home, but in the first leg, Pano had one goal disallowed and hit the bar a resounding wallop with another effort, and clearly they were not outclassed, even though they played both games to a 1-4-2-3 formation.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals F	Goals A
Bulgaria	4	1	1	2	4	5
Czechoslovakia	3	2	0	1	5	6
Denmark	2	1	0	1	1	4
Finland	2	1	0	1	1	1
Germany, East	3	0	1	2	2	7
Germany, West	4	0	1	3	0	9
Holland	2	0	0	2	0	4
Hungary	3	0	1	2	0	15
Ireland, North	2	0	1	1	2	5
Poland	5	1	2	2	4	6
Romania	8	2	1	5	5	23
Switzerland	2	0	0	2	0	3
Turkey	2	1	0	1	4	3
Yugoslavia	5	0	1	4	4	13
Totals	47	9	9	29	32	102

Again, in the sixties, Switzerland beat Albania 2-0 but that scoreline included a last minute penalty, and played in Tirana it was a game in which The Swiss press conceded they had been overrun. In fact it appears that the Swiss had only two shots at the Albanian goal and scored both times.

Futbollit, as the Albanians call it, began in the late twenties, and their FA was formed in 1930, though, it wasn't until 1946 that they played their first international match. On that occasion they lost 3-2 to Yugoslavia.

A national league was organised from 1936, but the FA Cup didn't follow until 1947. The first champions were Sport Club Tirana, but as in all Eastern European contries the pre-war clubs have long since folded.

Best players

Top dogs now are Partizani (Tirana) the team of the Army who make a habit of winning the league title three in succession, as they did after being formed in 1947 and taking the championship in 1947, 1948 and 1949. At that time they no doubt called up the best players to serve in the army, as was the custom with all their neighbours at the time.

The first team to take the title from Partizani after their formation was the other big gun of today, Dinamo Tirana, the team run by the Ministry of Home Affairs, e.g. the police etc. Dinamo won the championship in 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953, before Partizani won it back.

Another leading team today is 17 Nendori (November 17th) so called after the founding of the new start after the last war and inevitably they also have a Lokomotive team in Tirana, giving the capital five clubs.

In the 1950's the Albanians imported coaches from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, but today they prefer to go it alone. Even earlier their national team was run by an Albanian who had played in Italy during the war, Loro Borici.

Underlines

By all accounts he was a useful player with Lazio and played right half in the Albanian team that did well in the Balkan Cup in 1946, a competition in which they beat Bulgaria 3-1 and Rumania 1-0, before losing to Yugoslavia 3-2. Under Borici they held Hungary to 0-0 in 1948, just two years before the 0-12 disaster which underlines how quickly things can develop in football.

Unfortunately for the development of the Albanian game, politics have been a major influence on affairs. Between 1953 and 1958, Albania played no international football at all, and they seem to change their minds every two years or so about whether they want to play in the European club competitions. This was underlined this season, when they finally decided they wanted to take part in the European Cup etc., but made up their mind too late, after the UEFA deadline.

But politics apart, one cannot imagine that the average Albanian male is any different to his counterpart in other countries, and both players and spectators must be just as those in England and East Germany.

ARG

ASIA

Winners of Groups I to IV to be known by 31.3.77

OCEANIA

Winner to be known by 31.7.77

Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	
Hong Kong Indonesia Malaysia Thailand Singapore Sri Lanka	Israel Japan Rep. Korea	Iran Saudi Arabia Syria	Bahrain Kuwait Qatar	Australia New Zealand Taiwan
Hong Kong	Rep. Korea	Iran	Kuwait	Australia

1.4 to 31.7.77
Winner ASIA — 1.8 to 30.11.77

Qualified for Argentina

ASIA/OCEANIA

Australia 3, New Zealand 1
Taiwan 0, Australia 3
Australia 2, Taiwan 1
N. Zealand 6, Taiwan 0
N. Zealand 1, Australia 1
Taiwan 0, N. Zealand 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	3	1	0	9	3	7
New Zealand	4	2	1	1	14	4	5
Taiwan	4	0	0	4	1	17	0

Group 1
Singapore 2, Thailand 0
Indonesia 1, Hong Kong 4
Malaysia 6, Thailand 4
Singapore 2, Hong Kong 2
Indonesia 0, Malaysia 0
Hong Kong 2, Thailand 1
Singapore 1, Malaysia 0
Thailand 3, Indonesia 2
Hong Kong 1, Malaysia 1
Singapore 4, Indonesia 0
Play-off
Singapore 0, Hong Kong 1

Group 2
27. 2.77 Israel 0, Korea Rep. 0
6. 3.77 Israel 2, Japan 0
13. 3.77 Japan 0, Israel 2
20. 3.77 Korea Rep. 3, Israel 1
26. 3.77 Japan 0, Korea Rep. 0
3. 4.77 Korea Rep. 1, Japan 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea Rep.	4	3	2	0	4	1	6
Israel	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Japan	4	0	1	3	0	5	1

Group 3
12.11.76 Saudi Arabia 2, Syria 0
26.11.76 Syria 2, Saudi Arabia 1
7. 1.77 Saudi Arabia 0, Iran 3
28. 1.77 Syria 0, Iran 1
22. 4.77 Iran v Saudi Arabia
8. 4.77 Iran 2, Syria 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	4	4	0	0	8	0	8
Saudi Arabia	4	1	0	3	3	7	2
Syria	4	1	0	3	2	6	2

Group 4
Bahrain 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 0, Qatar 2
Qatar 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 1, Kuwait 2
Qatar 0, Bahrain 3
Qatar 1, Kuwait 4
(all matches played in Qatar)

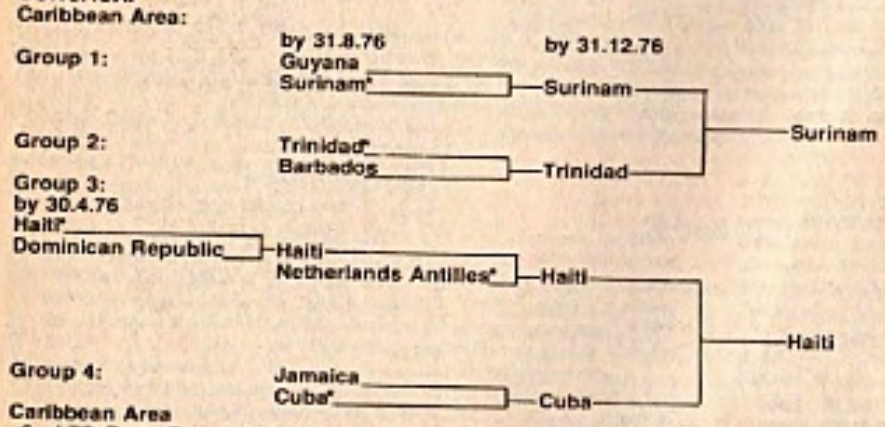
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	4	4	0	0	10	2	8
Qatar	4	1	0	3	3	9	2
Bahrain	4	1	0	3	4	6	2

19. 6.77 Hong Kong 0, Iran 2
26. 6.77 Hong Kong 0, Korea Rep. 1
3. 7.77 Korea Rep. 0, Iran 0
10. 7.77 Australia 3, Hong Kong 0
14. 8.77 Australia 0, Iran 1
27. 8.77 Australia 2 Korea Rep. 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	3	2	1	0	3	0	5
Australia	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
Korea Rep.	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Hong Kong	3	0	0	3	0	6	0
Kuwait	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CONCACAF

Caribbean Area:



Caribbean Area
2. 4.76 Dom. Republic 0, Haiti 3
17. 4.76 Haiti 3, Dom. Republic 0
4. 7.76 Guyana 2, Surinam 0
31. 7.76 N. Antilles 1, Haiti 2
14. 8.76 Haiti 7, N. Antilles 0
15. 8.76 Barbados 2, Trinidad/Tobago 1
15. 8.76 Jamaica 1, Cuba 3
29. 8.76 Cuba 2, Jamaica 0
29. 8.76 Surinam 3, Guana 0
31. 8.76 Trinidad/Tobago 1, Barbados 0
14. 9.76 Trinidad/Tobago 3, Barbados 1 (3rd match in Barbados)
14.11.76 Surinam 1, Trinidad/Tobago 1
28.11.76 Trinidad/Tobago 2, Surinam 2
18.12.76 Surinam 3, Trinidad/Tobago 2
28.11.76 Cuba 1, Haiti 1
11.12.76 Haiti 1, Cuba 1
Play-off Haiti 2, Cuba 0

EUROPE

Group 1
23. 5.76 Cyprus 1, Denmark 5
16.10.76 Portugal 0, Poland 2
27.10.76 Denmark 5, Cyprus 0
31.10.76 Poland 5, Cyprus 0
17.11.76 Portugal 1, Denmark 0
5.12.76 Cyprus 1, Portugal 2
1. 5.77 Denmark 1, Poland 2
15. 5.77 Cyprus 1, Poland 3
21. 9.77 Poland v Denmark
29.10.77 Poland v Portugal
16.11.77 Portugal v Cyprus
Denmark v Portugal

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	4	0	0	12	2	8
Denmark	4	2	0	2	11	4	4
Portugal	3	2	0	1	3	3	4
Cyprus	5	0	0	5	3	20	0

Group 2
13. 6.76 Finland 1, England 4
22. 9.76 Finland 7, Luxembourg 1
13.10.76 England 2, Finland 1
16.10.76 Luxembourg 1, Italy 4
17.11.76 Italy 2, England 0
30. 3.77 England 5, Luxembourg 0
26. 5.77 Luxembourg 0, Finland 1
8. 6.77 Finland 0, Italy 3
12.10.77 Luxembourg v England
15.10.77 Italy v Finland
16.11.77 England v Italy
3.12.77 Italy v Luxembourg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
England	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
Finland	5	2	0	3	10	10	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	2	17	0

Group 3
31.10.76 Turkey 4, Malta 0
17.11.76 German DR 1, Turkey 1
5.12.76 Malta 0, Austria 1
2. 4.77 Malta 0, German DR 1
17. 4.77 Austria 1, Turkey 0
30. 4.77 Austria 9, Malta 0
24. 9.77 Austria v German DR
12.10.77 German DR v Austria
29.10.77 German DR v Malta
30.10.77 Turkey v Austria
16.11.77 Turkey v German DR
27.11.77 Malta v Turkey

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	3	3	0	0	11	0	6
Germany DR	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Turkey	3	1	1	1	5	2	3
Malta	4	0	0	4	0	15	0

Group 4
5. 9.76 Iceland 0, Belgium 1
8. 9.76 Iceland 0, Netherlands 1
13.10.76 Netherlands 2, Northern Ireland 2
10.11.76 Belgium 2, Northern Ireland 0
26. 3.77 Belgium 0, Netherlands 2
11. 6.77 Iceland 1, Northern Ireland 0
31. 8.77 Netherlands 4, Iceland 1
4. 9.77 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
21. 9.77 Northern Ireland v Netherlands
26.10.77 Netherlands v Belgium
16.11.77 Northern Ireland v Belgium

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	4	3	1	0	9	3	7
Belgium	4	3	0	1	7	2	6
Northern Ireland	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Iceland	5	1	0	4	2	10	2

Group 5
9.10.76 Bulgaria 2, France 2
17.11.76 France 2, Eire 0
30. 3.77 Eire 1, France 0
1. 6.77 Bulgaria 2, Eire 1
12.10.77 Eire v Bulgaria
16.11.77 France v Bulgaria

ENTINA '78

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Eire	3	1	0	2	2	4	2

Group 6
16. 6.76 Sweden 2, Norway 0
8. 9.76 Norway 1, Switzerland 0
9.10.76 Switzerland 1, Sweden 2
8. 6.77 Sweden 2, Switzerland 1
7. 9.77 Norway 2, Sweden 1
30.10.77 Switzerland v Norway

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	4	3	0	1	7	4	6
Norway	3	2	0	1	3	3	4
Switzerland	3	0	0	3	2	5	0

Group 7
13.10.77 Czechoslovakia 2, Scotland 0
17.11.76 Scotland 1, Wales 0
30. 3.77 Wales 3, Czechoslovakia 0
21. 9.77 Scotland v Czechoslovakia
12.10.77 Wales v Scotland
16.11.77 Czechoslovakia v Wales

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Czechoslovakia	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	2	2

Group 8
10.10.76 Spain 1, Yugoslavia 0
6. 4.77 Rumania 1, Spain 0
8. 5.77 Yugoslavia 0, Rumania 2
6.10.77 Spain v Rumania
3.11.77 Rumania v Yugoslavia
30.11.77 Yugoslavia v Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Spain	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Yugoslavia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group 9
9.10.76 Greece 1, Hungary 1
24. 4.77 USSR 2, Greece 0
30. 4.77 Hungary 2, USSR 1
10. 5.77 Greece 1, USSR 0
18. 5.77 USSR 2, Hungary 0
25. 5.77 Hungary 3, Greece 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
USSR	4	2	0	2	5	3	4
Greece	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

CONCACAF
(extra preliminary matches)
Northern Area
24. 9.76 Canada 1, USA 1
3.10.76 USA 0, Mexico 0
10.10.76 Canada 1, Mexico 0
15.10.76 Mexico 3, USA 0
20.10.76 USA 2, Canada 0
27.10.76 Mexico 0, Canada 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	1	2	1	3	1	4
Canada	4	1	2	1	2	3	4
USA	4	1	2	1	3	4	4

Central Area
4. 4.76 Panama 3, Costa Rica 2
2. 5.76 Panama 1, El Salvador 1
11. 7.76 Costa Rica 3, Panama 0
1. 8.76 El Salvador 4, Panama 1
17. 9.76 Panama 2, Guatemala 4
26. 9.76 Guatemala 7, Panama 0
1.12.76 El Salvador 1, Costa Rica 1
5.12.76 Costa Rica 0, Guatemala 0
8.12.76 Guatemala 3, El Salvador 1
12.12.76 Guatemala 1, Costa Rica 1
17.12.76 Costa Rica 1, El Salvador 1
19.12.76 El Savador 2, Guatemala 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	6	3	2	1	15	6	8
El Salvador	6	2	3	1	10	7	7
Costa Rica	6	1	4	1	8	6	6
Panama	6	1	1	4	7	21	3

AFRICA
Extra Preliminary
Time limit: 31.3.76

1st Round — Time limit: 31.10.76
2nd Round — Time limit: 28.2.77
3rd Round — Time limit: 31.7.77
Concluding Matches — Time limit: 30.11.77

1. Algeria / Libya — Algeria
2. Morocco / Tunisia — Tunisia
Tunisia
3. Senegal / Togo — Togo
4. Ghana / Guinea — Guinea
Guinea
Tunisia
5. Zaire / Central Africa — Zaire
6. Sierra Leone / Nigeria — Nigeria
Sierra Leone* / Niger
Zaire
Nigeria
7. Congo / Cameroon — Congo
8. Upper Volta / Ivory Coast — Ivory Coast
Mauritania / Upper Volta*
Congo
Ivory Coast
Nigeria
9. Egypt / Ethiopia — Egypt
10. Sudan / Kenya — Kenya
Egypt
11. Uganda / Tanzania — Uganda
12. Zambia / Malawi — Zambia
Uganda
Zambia
Egypt

(Tanzania, Sudan, Central Africa and Zaire withdrew)

AFRICA
Extra Preliminary Round
7. 3.76 Sierra Leone 5, Niger 1
21. 3.76 Niger 2, Sierra Leone 1
13. 3.76 Upper Volta 1, Mauritania 1
28. 3.76 Mauritania 0, Upper Volta 2

First Round
1. 4.76 Algeria 1, Libya 0
16. 4.76 Libya 0, Algeria 0
9. 5.76 Zambia 4, Malawi 0
30. 5.76 Malawi 0, Zambia 1
4. 9.76 Upper Volta 1, Ivory Coast 1
25. 9.76 Ivory Coast 2, Upper Volta 0
31.10.76 Senegal 1, Togo 1
17.10.76 Togo 1, Senegal 0
10.10.76 Ghana 2, Guinea 1
16.10.76 Sierra Leone 0, Nigeria 0
30.10.76 Nigeria 6, Sierra Leone 2
17.10.76 Congo 2, Cameroon 2
31.10.76 Cameroon 0, Congo 2
Guinea 2, Ghana 1
29.10.76 Egypt 3, Ethiopia 0
14.11.76 Ethiopia 1, Egypt 2
12.12.76 Morocco 1, Tunisia 1
9. 1.77 Tunisia 1, Morocco 1
16. 1.77 Ghana 0, Guinea 2
(play-off)

Second Round
Tunisia 2, Algeria 0
Algeria 1, Tunisia 1
Togo 0, Guinea 2
Guinea 2, Togo 1
Congo 2, Ivory Coast 3
Ivory Coast 3, Congo 1
Kenya 0, Egypt 0
Egypt 1, Kenya 0
Uganda 1, Zambia 0
Zambia 2, Uganda 1
5. 6.77 Guinea 1, Tunisia 0
10. 7.77 Nigeria 4, Ivory Coast 0
15. 7.77 Egypt 2, Zambia 0
19. 6.77 Tunisia 3, Guinea 1
24. 7.77 Ivory Coast v Nigeria
31. 7.77 Zambia 0, Egypt 0

SOUTH AMERICA
Group 1
20. 2.77 Colombia 0, Brazil 0
24. 2.77 Colombia 0, Paraguay 1
6. 3.77 Paraguay 1, Colombia 1
9. 3.77 Brazil 6, Colombia 0
13. 3.77 Paraguay 0, Brazil 1
17/20. 3.77 Brazil 1, Paraguay 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	4	2	2	0	8	1	6
Paraguay	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Colombia	4	0	2	2	1	8	2

Group 2
9. 2.77 Venezuela 1, Uruguay 1
27. 2.77 Bolivia 1, Uruguay 0
6. 3.77 Venezuela 1, Bolivia 3
13. 3.77 Bolivia 2, Venezuela 0
17. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Venezuela 0
27. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Bolivia 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivia	4	3	1	0	8	3	7
Uruguay	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Venezuela	4	0	1	3	2	8	1

Group 3
20. 2.77 Ecuador 1, Peru 1
27. 2.77 Ecuador 0, Chile 1
6. 3.77 Chile 1, Peru 1
12. 3.77 Peru 4, Ecuador 0
20. 3.77 Chile 3, Ecuador 0
26. 3.77 Peru 2, Chile 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peru	4	2	2	0	8	2	6
Chile	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

League tables

ARGENTINA: Metropolitan First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez Sarsfield	21	13	5	3	40	28	31
River Plate	21	12	6	3	46	26	30
Boca Juniors	21	12	5	4	38	19	29
Independiente	21	9	8	4	36	22	26
Argentinos Jun.	21	10	5	6	37	25	25
Newell's O.B.	21	9	6	6	33	23	24
Colon Santa Fe	21	8	8	5	29	25	24
Est. La Plata	21	8	7	6	39	32	23
Atlanta	21	9	5	7	27	29	23
Rosario Central	21	7	8	6	31	21	22
Racing	21	8	6	7	24	23	22
Quilmes	21	6	8	7	31	34	20
Banfield	21	8	4	9	25	28	20
Platense	21	5	10	6	29	35	20
San Lorenzo	21	5	9	7	15	24	19
All Boys	21	6	7	8	31	41	19
Union Santa Fe	21	4	10	7	31	30	18
Lanus	21	6	6	9	19	23	18
Huracan	21	4	10	7	21	27	18
Gim. La Plata	21	6	3	12	33	42	15
Chacarita Jun.	22	4	7	11	27	38	15
Temperley	21	4	4	13	24	48	12
Ferro. Oeste	21	4	3	14	26	49	11

BRAZIL: Carioca Championship (2nd round)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Vasco da Gama	5	4	1	0	9
Sao Cristovao	5	3	2	0	8
America	6	2	3	1	7
Fluminense	3	3	0	0	6
Flamengo	4	2	2	0	6
Bangu	5	3	0	2	6
Botafogo	3	2	1	0	5
Madureira	4	2	1	1	5
Goicataz	3	1	0	2	2
Bonsucesso	4	0	2	2	2
Olaria	4	1	0	3	2
Portuguesa	3	1	0	2	2
Americano	4	0	1	3	1
Volta Redonda	4	0	1	3	1
Campo Grande	5	0	0	5	0

URUGUAY: Major League (final standings)

(1) Nacional 27 pts; (2) Peñarol 24; (3) Wanderers 23; (4) River Plate & Liverpool 20; (6) Defensor 17; (7) Cerro 16; (8) Rentistas 14 (all 18 games except Peñarol v Rentistas game pending).

SWEDISH FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmö	19	11	7	1	30	10	29
Elfsborg	20	8	8	4	30	18	24
Norrköping	19	9	6	4	33	26	24
Landskrona	20	9	5	6	35	25	23
Kalmar	20	8	6	6	27	22	22
Oster Växjö	20	6	9	5	26	17	21
Halmstad	20	6	8	6	31	24	20
Orebro	20	6	8	6	26	26	20
IFK Göteborg	20	6	8	6	36	42	20
Hammarby	20	7	4	9	21	31	18
IFK Sundsvall	20	5	7	8	28	34	17
AIK	20	3	10	7	21	31	16
Djurgarden	20	3	9	8	21	31	15
Derby	20	2	5	13	9	37	9

COLOMBIA: "Finalizacion" Championship Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caldas	4	2	2	0	10	7	6
Junior	4	1	3	0	8	7	5
America	4	1	3	0	5	4	5
Inde. Santa Fe	3	2	0	1	4	2	4
Nacional	4	1	2	1	4	5	4
Deportivo Cali	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Millionarios	4	0	1	3	6	10	1

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cucuta	4	3	1	0	8	3	7
Quindio	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Medellin	4	1	2	1	6	5	4
Pereira	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
Bucaramanga	4	0	3	1	1	3	3
Tolima	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Union Magdalena	4	1	1	2	3	5	3

CHILE: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	16	11	3	2	31	20	25
Union Española	16	9	5	2	32	13	23
Everton	16	9	5	2	32	22	23
Lota Schwager	17	6	9	2	22	15	21
Aviacion	16	7	5	4	23	28	19
Concepción	16	7	5	4	23	28	19
Palestino	17	7	5	5	36	26	19
Huachipato	17	6	6	5	25	23	18
Audax Italiano	16	6	5	5	23	23	17
Univ. de Chile	16	4	7	5	24	21	15
Nublense	17	4	6	7	21	21	14
Green Cross	16	4	5	7	25	40	13
Santiago Morning	17	3	7	7	15	25	13
O'Higgins	17	3	7	7	20	22	13
Ovalle	16	4	4	8	17	28	12
Wanderers	17	4	4	9	27	34	12
Univ. Catolica	17	3	6	8	18	25	12
Antofagasta	16	2	4	10	12	29	8

VENEZUELA: Professional League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estudiantes	7	4	2	1	9	2	10
Valencia	6	3	2	1	7	4	8
Univ. Merida	4	3	0	1	8	5	6
Italia	4	2	1	1	3	2	5
Portugues	5	2	1	2	7	5	5
Canarias	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
Galicia	3	2	0	1	3	2	4
Barquisimeto	4	1	2	1	3	5	4
San Cristobal	6	2	0	4	6	7	4
Portuguesa	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Univ. Oriente	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
Atletico Zamora	5	0	1	4	2	9	1

PERU: National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	11	5	4	2	21	13	14
Deport. Junin	11	7	0	4	17	13	14
Melgar	11	4	6	1	12	9	14
Col. N. Iquitos	11	5	4	2	15	12	14
Universitario	11	4	5	2	14	9	13
Alfonso Ugarte	11	5	3	3	14	13	13
Union Huaral	11	4	4	3	13	13	12
Leon de Huanuco	11	5	2	4	17	16	12
Atletico Chalaco	11	4	3	4	13	11	11
Juan Aurich	11	4	2	5	13	11	10
Sporting Cristal	11	3	4	4	14	13	10
Bolognesi	11	3	3	5	12	15	9
Sport Boys	11	3	2	6	15	21	8
Defensor Lima	11	3	2	6	22	24	8
Dep. Municipal	11	1	5	5	11	19	7
Cienciano	11	2	3	6	5	16	7

PARAGUAY: First Division

(1) Olimpia 14 pts, (2) Cerro Porteño 13, (3) Guarani, Libertad 12, (5) Rubio Nu, Tembetary, River Plate 10, (8) Resistencia 8, (9) Sportivo Luqueño 7, (10) Nacional 4 (all played 10 matches).

● *Continued from page 21*

It appeared all over the Djurgarden. Edström was just wide after one good move, and Nordin wasted an opening provided by the inefficient linesman. Alkeby dived to save at Nilsson's feet before, in the 62nd minute, Djurgarden hitback. It was a bad goal for IFK — Kjell Karlsson's corner being headed in uncallenged by Curt Olsberg, the one-time Malmö international stopper.

Seven minutes later IFK, after being so dominant, were pegged back at 2-2. Hakan Stenbäck, who had been tying his boot lace when Roger Lindvall took a corner on the right, got up in time to slam the ball against a post, and Tommy Berggren — a defender playing in emergency up front — scrambled in the rebound.

Purpose

Djurgarden had none of IFK's individual talent, but showed more purpose as a team, and might have won the game had they been able to take advantage of an unfortunate accident to Nordström. Coming out to catch a centre, he collided with Berggren and was knocked unconscious. It took the remarkably disorganised Swedes five minutes to bring on a stretcher and, while Almqvist took over the yellow jersey, and Reine Olausson came on in midfield, Djurgarden's players retreated to the touchline for all the world like ice hockey players, for a talk-in with coach Bengt Persson.

Not that it did much good. Though Djurgarden forced a couple of corners, the only time they threatened Almqvist's charge was five minutes from the end, when Karlsson should have done better than blaze over an open goal.

A 2-2 draw had been well-earned by both teams, but with AIK taking a point too from a 0-0 draw away to Hammarby, Djurgarden were no further out of trouble.

The same evening Malmö had beaten Landskrona 1-0 thanks to a Tommy Andersson goal, to maintain a five-point lead over Elfsborg at the head of the table. Elfsborg needed three second-half goals — two from their top scorer Thomas Ahlström — to beat BK derby 3-0 in Stockholm before the smallest crowd of the night, 4,033.

The biggest attendance was the 26,643 who saw Malmö beat Landskrona.

One final point to think about . . . if the peaceful Swedes felt the need for a 10-foot high fence in the Ullevi stadium, how slow indeed the English have proved in bowing to the inevitable!

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BRAZIL 1977

World SOCCER

Jimmy Case (LEFT) AND **Sammy McIlroy**

Liverpool — Manchester Utd.